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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH, 2011

Angels and shepherds

EVERYTHING you could possibly want from a traditional school Nativity concert was on show at Peterston-super-Ely Church-in-Wales Primary School recently.

The pupils came dressed in a variety of loving-made costumes, with kings, angels, shepherds, sheep and, of course, Mary, Joseph and their new-born child!

• *For more photographs of the school Nativity concert by* ***IAN DIXON,*** *please turn to page 18.*

Council takes charge of local playing field

ABOVE: The 'Police Field' shaded red, and the 'Cricket Field' shaded blue.

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

THE maintenance of a playing field in the heart of Cowbridge is to be transferred to the Vale Council – now that the comprehensive school no longer needs it.

The land was looked after by the school, which now has new playing fields at Aberthin Road.

In recent years, the playing field (known locally as the Police Field) has been used by the school and by local sports clubs.

It is owned by the Vale Council, but was maintained by the school.

The adjoining area (known as the Cricket Field) which is immediately adjacent to the Cattle Market, is owned by the Cowbridge Comprehensive School Trust.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Vale Council cabinet on Tuesday (December 13). A report to the cabinet reminded members that in September 2010, Cowbridge Comprehensive School vacated the former lower school site on Town Mill Road.

The school continued to use the lower site playing fields to allow the new sports pitches to establish, and that is now the case.

The report stated: "*As the playing fields are no longer required for education purposes, and in order to ensure the future effective and efficient management of that part of the playing field within the council's ownership, it is proposed that the area currently held by Learning and Development be transferred to Parks and Ground Maintenance.*

"There is a deficiency in the area of available playing fields and the transfer of this site to Parks and Ground Maintenance will retain this area for public use, and ensure the continued efficient good management of the playing field."

The report went on to say that this course of action will not alter the current use of this land.

The school will keep the budget it previously spent on maintaining the ground, and that will be spent on its new pitches.

Jeff Bird, the president of Cowbridge Cricket Club, told The GEM he was pleased that there would be no change in the use of the field.

However, he said that the cricket club was more concerned about the area known as the Cricket Field.

He said: "The last we heard was that the Cowbridge Comprehensive School trust had instructed an agent to look at how that field could be marketed.

"I note that the Vale Council has acknowledged that there is a shortage of playing fields in the area, and the cricket club would strongly favour a similar arrangement applying to the Cricket Field."

COUNCIL TO BUY SCRUB LAND AT MILLFIELD DRIVE

THE Vale Council is to buy a piece of scrub land near Millfield Drive, which surrounds council land used as a children's playground.

The decision was taken at Tuesday's cabinet meeting and the council will pay the landowner £2,500.

In a report, the cabinet was told that the total area was 875 sq metres, and that acquiring the land would " increase the useable space and facilitate improved future maintenance arrangements".

The cabinet heard negotiations to buy the land had taken place in 2006, but at that time agents representing the landowner asked for £13,500.

Customers upset as shop is told 'open sign must go'

A newly-reopened store in Cowbridge has been told to remove a sign from its window – after a complaint was made to the Vale Council.

Darran Gray and Paul James re-opened the Select Convenience store in Eastgate just two weeks ago.

Now, a Vale Council planning inspector has called and given them 21 days notice to remove the sign, because the shop is in a conservation area.

Darran told The GEM: "We have made a good start since re-opening the shop, but we wanted people passing the shop to realise that we were now open."

They put an electronic sign in the window (*see photo, above right*) saying simply 'OPEN'.

Darran said: "We understand that one complaint was made to the council, and now we have 21 days to remove it.

"When we told our customers, they were so outraged that 128 signed a petition on the first day we started it."

One local resident, Mrs Laura Duhig, told The GEM: "Most people are pleased that once again we have a shop within walking distance.

"It has been closed for some months and now it is fully stocked with friendly staff.

"Why is a small sign inside the shop window offensive?"

She added: "Local shops need support, not the threat of expensive legal action."

Paul James said: "The sign was only ever intended to be temporary, as we want to improve the main shop sign – something that we will be discussing with council planners."

Just as The GEM was going to press, a long statement arrived from the Vale Council.

This will be published in full next week.

ABOVE: Shop owner Paul James with the sign that must go.

81 OPERATIONS CANCELLED!

LLANDOUGH HOSPITAL was forced to cancel a total of 81 operations yesterday (December 14) following the theft of copper from a generator.

Health chiefs condemned the actions of the thieves, saying they had put greed before the interests of vulnerable people.

The hospital and the Cardiff and Vale University Health Board said they would do their best to reschedule as many of the operations as possible before Christmas.

Two GEM articles that caught the eye

READING a recent issue of The GEM, I was particularly interested in two articles entitled 'Poignant link with Bloody April 1917' and 'Wartime assault that made the headlines.'

The first, of course, dealt with the First World War and, *inter alia*, details the sad demise of Dan Davies at the guns of Von Richthofen.

In column three, however, an error occurs. the RWF (Royal Welch Fusiliers) should be spelt with a 'c' as in 'Welch' and not the normal spelling 'Welsh'.

This is an historical anomaly peculiar to the RWF: I should know as my grandfather, uncles, brother and others have served in this famous regiment and my mother was born into the Regiment at High Town Barracks, Wrexham in 1908.

Secondly, the other article refers to a talk given to Barry Men's Forum by Mr Glenn Booker, in which he referred to a 1944 rape on the Sully Camp by two GIs, subsequently given lengthy prison sentences.

This is intriguing, as I recall reading many years ago of the discovery of a skeleton on the Atlantic Trading Estate, formerly occupied by the American forces, which was identified as belonging to a GI who had been convicted of the offence of rape and executed there.

Was this another incident, or a case of mistaken identity?

Christopher Short,
Barry.

'Regeneration board could do better for Barry

I FEEL I must respond to the points made last week by Paul Haley, regarding the regeneration of Barry.

Firstly, I welcome the Welsh Government's decision to fund regeneration in Barry to the tune of £9million, which I think is fantastic.

It is now important that suitable schemes are identified and that the money is spent wisely in areas of the greatest need and on worthwhile projects.

However, I am disappointed that in appointing new members to the regeneration board, the Welsh Government has not included elected Barry councillors.

I believe this is totally wrong as it bypasses democracy.

Mr Haley refers to the so called art in the form of the bollards at Thompson Street. He points out that the Welsh Government insists that some of the development money must be spent on art which is okay, but how many people think that these bollards are actually art?

I can assure him that not many people think the bollards are art, but actually are a waste of money.

He then goes on to criticise me personally about how I feel the decision to spend £30,000 on bollards was a waste of money.

Well, I am very sorry Mr Haley, but I am just being honest and reflecting the general opinion of the residents of the town, who are outraged that money could have been wasted in such a way.

I certainly hope that in future mistakes like this are not repeated and that the board learns from this and actually deliver projects that the people of Barry want.

Coun Richard Bertin,
Barry.

(Please see story on page 22).

Get in touch with us at:
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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'TIME TO CLAMP DOWN ON THE METAL THIEVES'

THE problem of metal thefts is blighting all our communities – and things are just getting worse!

South Wales Police have seen a dramatic increase over the past year; the NHS, councils, churches and residents are all facing massive bills when having to replace stolen items after falling victim to one of these thefts.

Following my request for the issue of metal thefts to be considered by the Vale Council, I am glad to inform your readers that I have since received the support of the Vale public protection scrutiny committee and its controlling cabinet, in my campaign to support legislation which will make scrap dealers use a cashless, payment system – and to record proof of identity and photograph all of the street sellers of scrap metal.

I also called on the council to give its support to a private member's bill currently going before Parliament sponsored by Labour MP Graham Jones, which will cover the issues concerning metal thefts.

Figures recently obtained by BBC Wales, suggest that thefts have cost Welsh councils alone, almost £680,000 this year – more than double the previous year.

I want to see all scrap merchants paid by cheque or bank transfer, asked for ID and also a digital photo to be taken of the seller.

That way, all sellers of scrap metal can be traced easily and made accountable.

To sign the national petition in support of Graham Jones' private member's bill, log onto: *www.epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/21165*.

Coun Rob Curtis,
Barry.

'Curtail events that bring town to a halt'

I SUSPECT that many Cowbridge residents will sympathise with the views expressed by your anonymous correspondent regarding the traffic chaos caused by the reindeer parade, but not only on health and safety grounds.

The town is brought to a standstill on at least two occasions, the reindeer parade and the Food and Drink Festival.

Although these are valuable cash cows and useful publicity events, they do prevent people from moving freely in and out of the town, and the elderly and those with limited mobility who require to park in the main street.

At the risk of sounding curmudgeonly, is it not the time to call a halt to any increase in the number of these events?

There is now also a Literary Festival, a Christmas Tree Festival and a call for a Folk Festival – in addition to a proposed Christmas Cake Festival for December 2012!

D W Gerrard,
Cowbridge.

TURNING A BLIND EYE?

FOLLOWING a visit to Holton Road, Barry, I have to say I am mighty impressed by the new development for book handling at the library in Barry; also the Christmas tree is very impressive outside of the library.

Before going in there, I saw three Community Support Officers having a chat on the square.

One of these officers earlier on was walking with a member of the South Wales Police, past the Nat West bank.

There are always cars and lorries parked there in the morning, but on this occasion, there was a Range Rover with its engine running, parked on the pavement outside of the bank.

The driver did not have a mask on. or have a bag with 'swag' written on the side of it, but surely four officers could have banded together and either told him to shut his engine off, or to get off the pavement?

Paul Blanchard,
Barry.

Christmas cracker of a concert..!

AS a governor of Colcot Primary School, I was fortunate to receive an invitation to their Christmas concert – and what a wonderful evening of entertainment I was treated to.

The theme for the evening was 'A Creepy Crawly Christmas' and the songs, acting and costumes were an absolute tribute to the children, teachers and parents who had put in so much hard work to make the concert a success.

I really loved seeing the happiness on the face of all the children, who thoroughly enjoyed their part in the show, whether they were a ladybird, a butterfly or a flea!

The concept may sound strange, but the story really did work and managed to carry the Christmas message at the same time.

So, thank you to everyone who took part in the production, both on stage and behind the scenes, and a big thank you for my invitation.

Coun Claire Curtis,
Barry Town Council

An open letter...

Dear Lithuania and Estonia,

If Frau Merkel gets her way then, before your own parliaments can discuss them, you will soon have to have your national budgets approved by faceless, unelected people in Brussels.

Is this what you had in mind when you got out from under Soviet Russia?

Or did you, too, think perhaps that you were joining just a Common Market?

You might have taken some comfort from this arrangement if your inquisitor had had its own accounts approved, even just once, in the last 17 years.

You had better do as you are told, though, or you will find your democratically elected governments replaced for you before your very eyes,

R.Bradshaw,
Cowbridge.

PS. Croatia - are you really sure this is a good idea?

Crossing patrols: 'council's silence'

I WAS interested to receive information from Jill Davies, Chair of Dinas Powys Infants School, that the school crossing patrols, which were under threat, have been given what seems to be a stay of execution, for at least 20 months.

I was also grateful to Jill Davies, because the councillors on the Vale have not been kept informed about this timescale and there have been no reports to the council since the cabinet decided in June 2011 to have a review, and the Call–in to Scrutiny in July 2011.

So much for openness and transparency – or is it that the Conservative–controlled council did not want to raise this very emotive subject again?

Coun Neil Moore,
Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council
(Labour councillor for Cadoc Ward)

British Legion thanks The GEM

THANK you, most sincerely, for your £150 contribution to the Poppy Appeal. The Appeal is the major single source of revenue for the Royal British Legion's Benevolent Fund.

Each year, more people come to the Legion for help and the cost of that help is continually increasing. Daily we see and read of young Servicemen and women employed in peacekeeping duties in many parts of the world, often in considerable danger, and this means that there will always be a need to provide help for them and their dependants, when they themselves no longer can.

That is why it is so important that the Legion can continue with its vital work. Thank you on behalf of those who will now benefit from your support.

Nick Buckley,
(Head of Poppy Appeal)
Royal British Legion,
Aylesford

Drop-In Centre refurbishment is welcomed

OVER the past 11 years, the support I have received from the Drop-In Centre, covering many different problems, has been appreciated, and I applaud the Drop-In Centre's confidentiality policy and the voluntary work they do for our community.

I am pleased that the new premises in Castleland Community Centre are easier to access for everyone on the Thompson Street estate.

The Drop-In Centre and the community centre have always been warm and welcoming for everyone and the refurbishment will make such a difference to all of us who use the centre.

I look forward to seeing the centre when finished and I wish you all good luck!

Gwyneth Phillips,
Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL DECEMBER 22)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
15 Thur	09.08	9.5	21.31	9.1
16 Fri	09.50	9.3	22.16	8.9
17 Sat	10.38	9.0	23.09	8.6
18 Sun	11.33	8.8		
19 Mon	00.09	8.4	12.39	8.6
20 Tues	01.22	8.3	13.52	8.6
21 Wed	02.36	8.5	15.03	8.9
22 Thur	03.41	9.0	16.11	9.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Three trees in a million point the way in Cowbridge

The Llantwit Major & Cowbridge Lions Club get stuck in, placing the trees they donated to the Cowbridge Charter Trust for the Old Hall Gardens that were planted last Thursday.

AS part of Lions Clubs International 'Million Tree Planting Campaign', Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club donated three crab apple trees to Cowbridge Charter Trust for the Old Hall Gardens which were planted on Thursday, December 8.

The aim of the campaign was to plant one million trees globally this year. In fact, over six million trees have already been planted by Lions Clubs around the world! Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organisation with 46,000 clubs and 1.35 million members in 206 countries.

The clubs focus primarily on serving the needs of their local communities. As well as supporting environmental projects, they support individuals and groups with special needs, or who are disadvantaged in some way through no fault of their own – both by direct support and by raising funds for local charities.

They also provide support to local young people to develop and achieve their ambitions.

In addition to local activities, Lions' global reach allows them to respond quickly and directly to major disasters, such as the Haiti earthquake. An ongoing global priority for Lions is preventing blindness; it is estimated that Lions projects have prevented serious vision loss for more than 30 million people worldwide.

Cowbridge Charter Trust was formed in 2004, with the objective of implementing projects that enhance the heritage of the town and improve life sustainably to the benefit of its inhabitants in and around Cowbridge.

The year 2009 saw the start of the revival and maintenance of Old Hall Gardens by Cowbridge Charter Trust. It signed a 10-year land management agreement with the Vale Council to enable this project to go forward and to enable the trust to apply for various grants.

There has been a great start to this project, with much-needed repairs to the Georgian façade and the painting of the walls.

The terrace to the front of the façade and around the pond was repaved, increasing the total area using recycled paving stones.

The aim of the project is to establish a lovely community garden, rich in biodiversity, and used regularly as a resource by our local schools, community groups and town visitors.

Harry Hailes, a trustee of the Cowbridge Charter trust, said: "In just one year, the change in the gardens has been quite dramatic.

"Before and after photographs can be viewed on the website *www.cowbridgechartertrust.co.uk*"

More information about Lions and Cowbridge Charter Trust can be found on their websites: www.llantwitmajorandcowbridgelions.org.uk and www.cowbridgechartertrust.co.uk Both Lions and Cowbridge Charter Trust welcome new members. For Lions, call 01446 775026. For Cowbridge Charter Trust call 01446 772704.

JOHN ANDREWS

Baby photos keep members guessing

ST NICHOLAS WI NEWS

THE December meeting fell on the first evening of the month and took the form of a Christmas party.

It opened with a welcome and short business meeting, chaired by president Ann Bryant.

There were 35 members present and all tucked into a delicious buffet prepared and provided by the committee members.

Two quizzes where members competed in pairs, provided much amusement – such as guessing who was who in the 'baby photographs'.

Committee members had given photographs of themselves as babies or when they were very young! These had been scanned, copies numbered and presented on a sheet of paper.

On the back of the sheet was a 'cake quiz'(answers to clues were names of cakes).

The winner of the rose bowl was Thelma Whiting, who had collected most points in the monthly competitions. Jan Hays won the Christmas hamper raffle.

The winners of the photograph quiz was Annette Hoskins and Lynn Arcos. Anne Westlate and Viv Hayes were the winners of the cake quiz.

Ann Bryant wished everyone a happy Christmas and closed a most enjoyable meeting and successful year.

Members meet in the New Year on Thursday, January 5, at 7pm.

EE

Cowbridge dentist is honoured in his peers' hall of fame

A COWBRIDGE dentist has been honoured by his peers, for more than 35 years in the profession, by being inducted into the association's 'hall of fame'.

Dr Paul Langmaid CBE has been entered into the British Dental Association's 'Roll of Distinction' – set up to honour outstanding service to UK dentistry.

CARDIFF POSTS

After graduating from Cardiff Dental Scholl in 1975, Dr Langmaid held house officer posts in oral surgery and paedodontics at the University Hospital for Wales and the Cardiff Dental School, before moving onto general dental practice in Cornwall, where he worked for 10 years.

During his stay in Cornwall he also worked in the JIA Voluntary Dental Clinic in Ashkelon in Israel.

He was appointed in 1986 to a post as SDO/CADO on the Island of Anguilla in the British West Indies.

ABOVE: Dr Paul Langmaid with Dr Stuart Johnston, the chair of the BDA (left) and Dr Janet Clarke, president of the British Dental Association.

On his return to the UK in 1992, he worked in a variety of clinical roles in south Glamorgan, including General Dental Practitioner, SDO in the Community Dental Service and as Clinical Assistant in Oral Surgery and Orthodontics in Mid Glamorgan.

He was appointed as SDO in the Welsh Office in December 1993, and was subsequently appointed Chief Dental Officer for Wales, a post from which he has recently retired.

He was awarded a CBE by HM the Queen in her birthday honours 2010.

FESTIVE EATS AND A CAROL SERVICE

PENLLYN AND DISTRICT WI NEWS

THE November craft evening was spent making final preparations for the Christmas fayre on December 3 which was very successful.

It was nice to see so many people supporting us, and we had the added attraction of a visit from Father Christmas! Many thanks to all who attended.

Several of our members sang in the Glamorgan Carol Festival held in Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, on December 5.

The monthly members' meeting was held on December 6th, when Jill Watkins gave a demonstration and workshop, making festive door-wreaths, using seasonal foliage, and a baking potato instead of oasis foam.

We were all very pleased with the decorations we had created, thanks to Jill's expert tutoring. She was thanked by our president Novello Peters.

A buffet supper provided by the committee members, and then followed the business meeting.

The minutes were read by the secretary, Jane Exel, agreed, and signed by the president. Information was given regarding local and federation forthcoming events.

Final arrangements were then made for our group carol service due to be held in Penllyn Church, on December 14.

The winners of the raffle and the competition were announced and prizes given.

The next meeting will be on January 3 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall, with a talk on 'A Journey to Jordan and Egypt'.

New members welcomed; we meet on the first Tuesday in every month (except August) at 7.30pm in Penllyn Village Hall.

For further information contact Novello 01656 674191 or Marjorie 01656 647115.

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Dr Jones launches new health project

FORMER Cowbridge Comprehensive pupil, Dr Pippa Jones, is the driving force behind a unique, new lifestyle-health project, the Optimal Chiropractic and Wellness Centre in Whitchurch Road, Cardiff. Dr Jones was born in Llantwit Major.

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Praise for WRVS volunteers and work of luncheon club

THE Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Andy Banks, along with Jane Hutt AM and the WRVS organiser, joined the weekly luncheon club at the Town Hall for a Christmas meal and festivities.

Afterwards, the Vale AM said: "The Christmas lunch provides the opportunity for us to thank the WRVS volunteers for their hard work throughout the year in serving dinners at this weekly luncheon club.

"With transport provided by volunteer drivers as well as a delicious hot meal, this is an important service provided for the Cowbridge community,

"I was glad to hear that there are more spaces for dinners in the New Year!"

For further information about the Cowbridge Luncheon club contact 0845 600 5885

LOCAL BOYS DO THEIR BIT FOR VELINDRE HOSPITAL

ABOVE: Tom Jose, Dan Taylor and William Crosby visited Velindre Hospital to hand over their donation to the head of appeals, Andrew Morris.

FOUR Cowbridge schoolboysrecently found a novel way to raise money for Velindre Hospital, Cardiff recently.

Tom Jose, Dan Taylor, William Crosby and Sam Bluck made a guy on Bonfire Night and entered a competition at Colwinston's firework display.

They won the prize for the guy that attracted the most charitable donations on the night, and decided to donate that money to Velindre..

The boys said they had chosen the hospital because Dan's grandfather, Roger, was treated there, before losing his battle with cancer last year.

Eisteddfod chief briefs councillors

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

THE chief executive of the National Eisteddfod came to Llantwit Major Town Council recently to brief councillors on what to expect when the show comes to town next August.

As Llantwit is the nearest large town to the National Eisteddfod, Elfed Roberts answered questions about the scale of it, and advised councillors on how they could make it a success.

In fact, he said that it was important that this year's Eisteddfod should be a success, because the previous one at Wrexham made a loss.

He reminded councillors of the scale of the event, saying that for the BBC, it was its second-largest outside broadcast after Wimbledon.

During the week, he said, an estimated total of 150,000 visitors were expected to attend, and many stay in the area for the week.

He revealed that the Eisteddfod was in talks with Arriva Trains Wales about possible additional services and other transport arrangements.

Organisers were also in discussion with South Wales Police to plan for the extra traffic. He said that Llysworney was an obvious area of concern, but that a traffic plan would be put in place.

Clair Evans, from the Vale Council, added that the council had been involved in planning the event for two years.

She said that a large numbers of factors had to be included in the council's plan, including: signposting; hedge removal; grass cutting; a traffic plan; waste management; major incident planning; noise control; caravan site exemptions; liaison with local schools and tendering for support services.

In conclusion, Mr Roberts urged the council to make sure that local businesses were aware of the opportunities afforded by the Eisteddfod, including trade stands and tendering for services.

He added that people could also volunteer to be stewards. (see page 11).

Under-8s show off their skills

WITH the kit only just dried out from last week's away win against Nantyffyllon, it was a short trip down to Cowbridge for Bridgend Athletic under-8s.

The Ath put the pressure on straight away, and a handling error by Cowbridge allowed Evan Beach to get possession before setting up Dom Manaseitava for the first try.

The Ath tagged excellently and some great solo runs saw Evan D'Adamo, Evan Beach and Dom Manaseitava all score.

Then, a great series of passes across the line ended with Connor scoring straight through the middle.

Straight from the re-start, the Ath intercepted and Dom Manaseitava scored again. The first half was wrapped up with a great solo run down the left wing from Evan Beach to score in the corner, before Luke Florence then scored with the last play of the half.

Cowbridge put some fresh legs on for the second half that led to a much closer game.

This period was a real battle in the middle of the pitch with possession going one way then the other as both teams tagged well.

The Ath pressure eventually told as Harri Lewis went through to score, and then Connor Lees scored again just before the end.

Evan Beach added two further scores, and then Gus Patterson evaded almost the whole Cowbridge team to score himself!

A Cowbridge try eventually came, before Evan Beach responded with another storming run down the pitch.

Cowbridge scored again and then Ethan Parker scored after good passing by the whole team. The last try went to Cowbridge, for a third period score of 5-3.

Final score: 14-3.

BARFC Team: Evan Beach, Evan D'Adamo, Gus Patterson, Connor Lees, Olly Williams, Luke Florence, Ethan Parker, Lloyd Anthony, Dominiko Manaseitava, Harri Lewis, Charlie Cawley, Tom Gardner. **LP**

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Draw winners

WINNERS of the Christmas 100 Club draw at St Mary Hill Church were: Mrs Pam Salmon, Mrs B Barrat, Mrs B Lewis, Jack Hall, Mrs M Lloyd, Mrs C Bevan. The next draw will take place in March 2012.

Carols

ST MARY HILL Church Christmas celebration will begin on December 19 at 11.15am, with a carol service, followed by refreshments.

Holy eucharist will take place at St Mary's on Christmas morning at 11am.

Everyone will be welcome at the carol service at St Canna's on December 18 at 4pm. As in previous years, sherry and mince pies will be served.

Christmas Day; Holy eucharist at 10am.

Nativity service

ST CRALLO'S Church, Coychurch, on Saturday, December 24 'Tea towels and tinsel' Nativity service for all the family at 4pm. Midnight mass at 11.30pm; Christmas Day at 9am, informal eucharist.

St Crallo's Church choir invites you to join in carol singing around Coychurch on December 19 and December 21. Please meet at St Crallo's 6.30pm.

On December 20, carol singing will take place at the bank area of Bridgend Industrial estate at 12.30pm; the collection will be donated to Bridgend Samaritans.

Saron Chapel

THIS year's carol service was truly outstanding, with Saron having to accommodate many parents and their children on the upper floor of the chapel.

Children from the age of three years took part in the entertainment.

Following the service, children and parents made their way to Treoes community hall to indulge in party goodies!

A big thank you to the friends of Saron, and congratulations to the hall committee for turning the hall into a winter wonderland.

Young at Heart Club

CLUB members travelled to Porthcawl on December 8 for their annual Christmas lunch at the Atlantic Hotel.

A vote of thanks was given by by club secretary Anne Ellis to Arthur and Jean Thomas, who are the original chairmen of the club.

A big thank you to Anne Ellis, who arranges the club trips.

Last, but not least, a big thank you to John Ellis, Dave Adams and their helpers who week after week get the table and chairs ready for club meetings.

No Santa, but Shena made it all worthwhile!

YSTRADOWEN AND DISTRICT WI NEWS

PRESIDENT Jan Foyle welcomed members to an evening of festive fun and was delighted with the excellent turn-out.

Jan chaired the business for the month. This was kept to a minimum so that we could continue with our festivities. It was agreed not to hold our usual coffee morning or the monthly walk in December.

Decisions on a venue for the New Year dinner will be discussed at the January meeting.

We will also make a collection for the 'do it for Denman' fund towards the new heating system at Denman House in January.

Jan introduced the speaker. Father Christmas had been invited, but due to pressure of work had to decline.

However, we were not disappointed to welcome Shena Sargeant, who demonstrated some delicious Christmas bites and produced recipes for us to cook at home.

These were available to sample with mulled wine, mince pies and stollen cake provided following the demonstration.

The evening continued with several members reciting Christmas poems and readings, which afforded good entertainment.

The evening concluded with the singing of Christmas songs and carols, accompanied on keyboard by resident pianist Rose Ives.

The competition for the best Christmas cracker prize was won by Kathy Greene.

The annual competition winner was Jan with Kathy in second place.

Finally, Jan wished everyone a Happy Christmas and good New Year and invited us to take a Christmas gift.

Each member had provided and wrapped a small gift and received one in return.

It was altogether a very successful and happy evening to conclude our 2011 programme.

How the months have flown by! ***EL***

'Don't drink and drive' – plea

WITH the Christmas party season under way, a Vale councillor has urged people in the area not to drink and drive.

Coun Gwyn John said that although there was a legal limit, he believed that people should not have an alcoholic drink and get behind the wheel.

He explained: "It is cheaper to hire a taxi than pay a fine and have a ban. If you had a serious accident you could go to jail for years."

The legal alcohol limit for drivers in Britain is 35 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath, 80 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood, or 107 micrograms of alcohol per 100 millilitres of urine.

However, tolerance to alcohol depends on a number of factors such as weight, age, gender and recent food consumption, and research shows that any alcohol can have some effect on driving.

Last year, 14 per cent of road fatalities were caused by drink driving.

Coun John said: "Sometimes people are tempted to have a pint on the way home.

"They may have had a long day, be tired and not eaten much.

"If they have an accident afterwards – even if it wasn't their fault – the consequences because they were drinking can be very serious."

He said that a few years ago in a local pedestrian lost his life on Boxing Day due to the actions of a drink driver.

Coun John said he was organising a social occasion in the village of Sigingstone, but people would not be driving there.

"We have arranged for two minibuses, and will order taxis if necessary.

"If people are going out for the evening and they go in a taxi together it can be as little as £5 each."

Scouts spread festive cheer!

THE 1st Cowbridge Scouts – Tiger Troop – decorated a real Christmas tree at the entrance of Southway Care Home in Cowbridge, to bring festive cheer to residents and visitors.

"This is now becoming an annual tradition for the Troop, which is enjoyed by the residents, carers and Scouts," said Nick Exley, the leader.

The Scouts meet every Thursday night and have been involved in the Scout post, bowling, archery and cooking, as well as getting out into the local community.

Cowbridge Scouts with the tree they helped decorate at Southway Care Home.

"Many thanks to all who helped, including Rhodri Davies from Downs Christmas Trees, for donating the tree," Nick added.

The 1st Cowbridge Scouts meet every Tuesday or Thursday in Cowbridge.

New Scouts welcome; contact Nick Exley on 01446 773264.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE IS THE ICING ON A LOCAL SCHOOL'S FUNDRAISING CAKE!

A LLANTWIT MAJOR school has had an early Christmas present – a large cheque from some very busy fundraisers!

A PTA spokesperson said: "The Llanilltud Fawr Primary School PTA would like to say a massive 'thank you' to everyone who donated raffle prizes and gifts for stalls, and to all those who supported the Christmas fayre on December 3, by attending and spending!

"It was a fantastic success. We are pleased to announce that a record amount of money has been raised by the fayre and various Christmas events in the last few weeks at school.

"At the last count, it was more than £1,500. All money raised will help to provide valuable resources for our children at Llanilltud Fawr."

Cowbridge Rotarians present awards to comprehensive pupils

President Geoff Jones presents certificates to the three R.Y.L.A. attendees – Sophie Gallagher, Georgina Jackson and Rachel Watts.

Donna Wallbank presents citation awards to David Hannaby, president of the Rotary JuniorClub - 'INTERACT' and Caitlin Newham (secretary).

COWBRIDGE Rotary Club recently celebrated its long-standing relationship with the local comprehensive school at an awards night – to recognise the achievements of pupils.

Certificates were presented by Cowbridge Rotary president, Geoff Jones, to students Sophie Gallagher, Georgina Jackson and Rachel Watts, in recognition of their successful completion of the summer Rotary Youth Leadership Course.

The recipients gave an excellent presentation of their activities in a programme designed to emphasise leadership skills, personal development and citizenship.

This was followed by a moving description by student David Hannaby of the work carried out with disadvantaged children by Cowbridge students, during their recent visit to the Goedgedacht Trust in South Africa.

David thanked Cowbridge Rotary for helping to make the visit possible – and emphasised the pressing need to continue to support the under–privileged of the third world.

Caitlin Newham, Secretary of the Cowbridge Comprehensive Interact Club (Junior Rotary Club) then described the wide range of their successful charity fund raising activities.

In recognition of these outstanding achievements, Donna Wallbank, Rotary U.K. New Generations co–ordinator, presented David Hannaby, Cowbridge School Interact president, with a Rotary presidential citation. She praised their efforts in fulfilling the Rotary motto of '*Service above Self*'.

Geoff Jones, Cowbridge Rotary president, thanked the representatives of the teaching staff, Julian Davis, deputy Head of the Cowbridge Comprehensive School and Jonathan Ling, head of modern foreign languages, for their efforts on behalf of the community; and praised the students as a credit to the school, its teachers and the whole local community.

Finally, the pupils presented a cheque for £590 to Rotary to purchase a 'Shelterbox', which provides immediate essential relief to communities struck by natural disasters.

The evening confirmed the excellence of the Cowbridge students and the continuing close ties to the Rotary Club of Cowbridge in their common service to the community.

NB

FIVE-COURSE FESTIVE MEAL!

NEWS FROM LLANHARRY WI

ON December 6, by popular request, Llanharry Workingmen's Club was the venue chosen for our five-course Christmas dinner.

Joy Brooking was presented with the Joan Thomas Shield for winning the most monthly competitions (three) during the year.

December's competition is traditionally the best-wrapped Christmas parcel and every parcel was beautifully wrapped and decorated.

The competition is judged by members placing coins on the parcel they consider is the best and the winner was Ros Griffiths.

Members were reminded the Lunch Club's Christmas party will be on Friday (December 16) at The High Corner,, Llanharan.

New programmes were given out and the first meeting in 2012 will be on January 3, when Dave Allan will speak about Nepal.

The competition is for 'my favourite Christmas card.'

The president wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year. **JR**

'URGENT NEED FOR DONATIONS TO VALE's FOODBANK' – says the Vale AM

SEVEN weeks after the Assembly Member Jane Hutt launched the Vale Foodbank at the Coastlands Family Church in Tennyson Road, Barry, she re-visited the centre to find out how the Foodbank is getting on.

She learned that in the past few weeks, more than 180 people have received food and as she spent time with the volunteers packing food parcels, she gained more information about the rising need for this important project.

The Vale Foodbank is open twice a week, on Mondays, 10am–12 noon and Thursday ,4.30pm–6.30pm, and operates a voucher system in partnership with the statutory and voluntary sector, including the Vale CAB and Social Services, Llamau, Atal-y Fro and Gobaith.

At the Foodbank Centre, free refreshments are given and there is a welcome by trained volunteers who are able to give advice about other sources of help and support to those in need.

ABOVE: The Vale Foodbank is inspiring .

The AM commented: "Food parcels are needed for a variety of reasons, although the most common, are welfare benefits delays and crisis loans being refused by the Department of Work and Pensions.

"Debt and homelessness are also major reasons why a food parcel is needed. The foodbank distributes parcels throughout the Vale, although Barry families are most in need.

"Food parcels have fed people within a vast age range, from very young children through to older members of society, however nearly 30 per cent of packages have been given to under 25-year-olds."

There had been a tremendous response from churches and schools. Since opening, the foodbank has received more than 5,000 kg of donations and the donations keep coming in, but as demand for food parcels increases, more food is urgently needed.

The AM went on: "The Vale Foodbank is an inspiring project and joins a network of foodbanks all over the UK providing food to those in need. The food is given in good faith, is 'in date' and in good condition and is a gift from the foodbank and volunteers at the Coastlands Centre.

"The foodbank needs more supplies urgently and I hope all will respond to this call for UHT milk, fruit juice and 500g sugar. Also, with Christmas approaching the foodbank is aiming to provide a basic food parcel plus some extra treats such as chocolate and mince pies."

To get in touch with the foodbank, call 07973 388906. Volunteers will be available to deal with any queries or requests from 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday and until 6.30pm on Thursdays.

Students have a special eye for business!

ABOVE: Sian Rodgers (17) Callum Oaten (17) and Ben Nicholas (18) all from Barry, Joe Blackley (17) from Newport and Sam Jenkins (18) from Cardiff.

YOUNG people at Ashgrove School in Penarth have an eye for business – they not only designed and decorated the Ash Café, they formed a company to run it.

The students, who have autistic spectrum disorder, have been so successful, they have paid off 20 per cent of their setup loan in five months, with enough left over from profits to pay cash for supplies and fund excursions.

Headteacher, Chris Britten, explained: "It started off because they were catering for events; making cakes and coffees. They've been doing so well, they're able to pay their suppliers in cash and have paid for a three-day trip to London from the proceeds. They're going to Paris in the spring."

The entire operation is run by the students, with support from staff – from stock control to menu choice to dealing with suppliers. They designed the coffee shop from the ground up; from layout design to colour scheme, to devising the menu and undertook training from Coffee Pro to qualify as barristas.

The teens also devised and allocated roles – from advertising manager to operations director – to ensure its smooth running.

Ash Café IT director, Ben Nicholas (18) of Barry, has been offered a job with Costa Coffee, after his barrista training saw him undertake work experience with the coffee shop chain.

He said: "I like getting the drinks ready. I'm hopefully going to get a part-time job with Costa when I go to college next year."

Children show off their enterprise

Pupils get stuck in to Rhws Primary School 'mini–enterprise' week.

PUPILS at Rhws Primary School recently became entrepreneurs during their 'Mini–Enterprise week'.

Children all the way from from Nursery to year–6 made a range of products and games; spending the week creating products, advertising and promoting their products.

The week culminated in the grand 'Christmas fair', in which each class sold their products and the profit for each class was calculated.

They certainly gave Richard Branson a run for his money!

KELSEY BIBEY

Guides' festive sleep-over...

THE 10th Barry Guides recently took part in Christmas crafts and activities, and enjoyed a Christmas movie at a festive sleepover.

Two of the newest Guides also made their promise by the Christmas tree and were welcomed into the unit.

If any women aged 18-65 wish to get involved with the community as their new year's resolution, Guiding is a fun way to do this. Contact www.girlguiding.org.uk /get_involved for details.

RIGHT: The 10th Barry Guides enjoy a Christmas movie.

A SERVICE of carols and readings will be held at Ewenny Priory Church on Sunday, December 18 at 4pm, with St Donat's Chamber Choir, conductor Wendy York. All are welcome. For further details, contact the Venerable Philip Morris on 01656 880108.

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Compliments of the season to everyone!

FOLLOW THE (Vale Council) LEADER

'CONGRATULATIONS ON RECYCLING RESPONSE'

by COUN GORDON KEMP
Leader of the Vale Council

MAY I congratulate every Vale resident who participates in our popular mixed (co-mingled) recycling service.

Clearly, each week, many of you are putting out more paper, glass, cans, cardboard and plastics for collection than ever before.

This makes an enormous difference, not just environmentally, but also in helping the council reach Welsh Government targets and avoid potential fines.

Switching to mixed recycling from September 19 this year has also saved the council half a million pounds; with the current market value of good quality dry mixed recyclables, and the very low contamination rates reported, this figure could increase over the months to come.

As you may be aware, all local authorities are required to reach a 52% recycling and composting target by 2012-13.

If Vale residents continue with their excellent recycling efforts, by April 2012 we will have not only reached the target, but exceeded it, a whole year early. Please do everything you can to recycle.

Councillor Geoff Cox, cabinet member for visible and building services and I, often hear from residents how passionate they are about recycling – and see streets full of recycled materials ready for collection and we are very grateful for everyone's efforts.

Our waste management and communications teams have got together to produce some very informative videos about recycling in the Vale. You can see these on the council's website, www.vale-ofglamorgan.gov.uk and on YouTube, www.youtube.com/VOGcouncil

TEMPORARY REMOVAL

ANYONE who has visited the Civic Offices in Barry this week will have noticed that the Merchant Navy memorial is being removed. I know the memorial is a much-loved landmark in Barry and I can reassure residents that its absence will be temporary.

The memorial has fallen victim to the elements over the years and it will now be given some tender loving care and returned to its former glory. We have commissioned a specialist company to renovate the 15-year-old Portland stone structure.

The structure is being dismantled and put into storage to dry out. Once it is thoroughly dry, it will be desalinated and the restoration work will commence.

Some modifications will be made to the structure to ensure that rain runs off it easily in the future.

The architect tells us the changes will be barely noticeable and will ensure that it remains weatherproof for years to come.

The monument plaques that list the names of merchant seamen from the Vale who were killed during conflict will be replaced by stainless steel versions and updated to include the names of a further 100 seamen.

The monument should be back home sometime in the late spring – the exact date will depend on how long it takes for the stone work to dry out.

2011 was not an easy year for local government, but the Vale Council is prepared for the challenges of the coming year and we are ready and willing to do our utmost to ensure a bright future for our county.

May I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Aberthaw's 'Christmas present' to the St John Ambulance

ABERTHAW Power Station commercial manager Dr Mark Picton (above, centre) presents a £500 cheque to Colin Jones, chairman and Anthony French, Deputy Commissioner from St John Council for Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan (on right).

The charity is raising funds to replace an ambulance. Currently it is using an ambulance with a G registration.

"We appreciate the support from the power station and are grateful for the donation," said Mr French.

TELL US YOUR NEWS!
Email your local news to
gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Police issue appeal and a warning, as...

WOMAN (86) VICTIM OF BURGLARY

POLICE are appealing for information following a distraction burglary in the Barry area on Wednesday, December 7, when an 86–year–old woman was targeted in her home.

E–fit of one of the suspects.

At about 1.15pm, a man called at Hinchsliff Avenue, purporting to be from the gas board.

After approximately 10 minutes, he left the house. At this point, a second male was seen running away towards Winston Road.

A large quantity of cash and jewellery was later found to be missing, police reported.

The man who entered the house is described as white, aged in his 20s, 5ft 5ins in height, of medium or normal build, with a Barry accent and short dark coloured hair.

The male seen running away is described as being taller, with fair hair and wearing lighter coloured clothing.

Detective Sergeant Julian Kerslake, of Barry CID, said: "An investigation is under way and I would appeal to anyone who recognises the man depicted in the E–fit to come forward.

"I would also like to urge anyone who may have been approached in similar circumstances, to contact the police.

"I want to remind householders not to allow any cold callers into your home and for local residents to look out for elderly or vulnerable neighbours."

• *Contact Barry CID via 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously, on 0800 555 111.*

The Dining Room

~ Traditional dining ~
with a contemporary twist

The Dining Room Barry Island has recruited two new chefs to re-establish the menu.

Our head chef has a London restaurant background, working in both Michelin and Rosette standard establishments. He along with his second chef have devised a menu integrating modern British cuisine with innovative twists on popular British classics, at a very affordable price.

Including our unbeatable Sunday carvery service, with choice of meats and fresh seasonal vegetables to help yourself to.

We at the Dining Room want to create an affordable dining experience, offering the best service and the highest standards of food possible.

We now pride ourselves on making everything in-house including our ice creams and breads.

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SQUASH SEASON IS HOTTING UP FOR COWBRIDGE TEAMS

FOR the Cowbridge Bar 44 A and B sides, plus the Cowbridge C Trio Brasserie squash team, the season is hotting up.

The As are trying to cling to their elevated South Wales Division One East level but find themselves in a five-way relegation fight.

Meanwhile the Bs and Cs have retained their unbeaten records to challenge for their respective South Glamorgan Division Two and Four leagues.

Nick Guard's A team have been edged out 2–3 in successive weeks (eight points to 14 on each occasion) – away at Llantrisant A, followed by a home defeat to Merthyr A.

Notable performances were recorded by Guard himself at Llantrisant, winning 3-0 at No 1, ably backed up by Niall Sloan posting a 3-1 victory at No 5.

Garfield Leask (No 3) came closest to assisting with a team victory but failed to close out after being 2-1 up.

Garfield and Simon Payne (No 4) put in solid performances at home against Merthyr, 3-0 and 3-1 respectively, but Jon Bisson again drew a blank at No 2, while Niall Sloan managed a game point at No 5.

With the match all-square, the onus was on the No 1s to seal the team victory and so claim the bonus points. A hard fought 10-12 game was viewed before Guard levelled with an 11-5 for one game-all, but he could not muster enough strength to gather the vital extra points.

The As travel to seventh-placed Rhiwbina C in a 'double-pointer', seeking mid-table safety.

The Bar 44 Bs took an almost unrecognisable line-up to Old Penarthians B as a result of four regulars being unavailable for selection – not even ever-present skipper Russ Watts was on show!

Both teams were unbeaten going into this fixture but only No 1 Chris Ranger was playing his true ranking position – Colin Baxter (usual rank 5) played at 2 while Ade Fisher was asked to play at 3 in only his second comeback game.

C team players Dave Matthews and Tony Steele were required to help out at 4 and 5 respectively!

Court temperatures resembled Arctic conditions as the Penarth club had experienced some boiler problems.

Fisher started the match and never really adjusted to the cold ball – not being able to play shots past an unorthodox opponent (Peter Legge with table-tennis as his first sport!) Hence a 0-3 result.

Both C team lads were in fantastic come-backs from 0-2 with Messrs Matthews and Steele posting 3-2 wins at 4 and 5 respectively.

Colin Baxter put in a superb shift at No 2 and never looked in trouble to win 3-0. Chris Ranger stuttered at the beginning of his match – finding himself 0-1 and 0-5 in the second before getting his game together to win 3-1.

A fantastic unexpected 4-1 victory achieved by a depleted line-up away from home against a previously unbeaten side – result of the year! (16-8)

The Bs followed this up with a 3-2 win at WIS, Sophia Gardens, with workmanlike 3-0 wins at Nos 2 to 4 from Richard Ford, Julian Jenkins and Colin Baxter.

However, Russ Watts drew a blank at No5 against a promising young opponent, and Paul Reynish went down 1-3 after starting well but showing a little tiredness – coming off another 12-hour work shift to turn out for the side. The match result was 14-6, and the team is heading for certain promotion and, hopefully, the Division two Championship.

Dave Matthews' C team recorded another couple of wins to maintain their commanding position at the top of their league (a lead of 22 points with one match to play). A 4-1 (16–7) result away at Cardiff B was followed by a 3–2 home win over UHW B (15–8).

In the Cardiff match, Ed Lowe continued his improvement, showing battling qualities from 0-1 down to win 3-1 at No 5.

Mike Burnett had an unusually off night at 4, going down 0-3. Tony Steele came out on top in his five setter at 3, while Dave Matthews (2) and Colin Giles (1) finished the job 3-0 and 3-1 respectively.

In the home match versus UHW B, Tony Steele (No 3) played out another five setter but this time was edged out in the fifth. Mike Burnett got back to winning ways to post a 3-1 at position 4.

Rich Kyle filled in at 5 but is still a little raw at team squash but will only improve with more matches. The reliable duo of Matthews and Giles sealed the team victory with another set of 3-0 and 3-1 results.

All club details from Clive Prigg (01446 773729) or russ.watts@btopenworld.com.

RUSS WATTS

ON Sunday, December 18, United Free Church, Cowbridge, holds carols by candle-light at 5pm, featuring the choir from Ysgol Iolo.

Also on Monday, December 19, Brazilian guitarist Fernando Aguera and soprano Grace Power – duo V&V – will perform in concert featuring favourite Christmas carols. Tickets £6 from Noah's Place. The concert starts at 7.30pm.

Branch looks forward to an active New Year

ST ATHAN WI NEWS

An excellent Christmas meal at St Athan Golf Club brought to an end a very busy few months for St Athan WI.

A whist drive held in October was very well attended and as usual players enjoyed not only a game of cards but a very good supper provided by members.

At the AGM held in November, Gill Phillips was elected president for another year. Cath Thomas has worked extremely hard as social and outings secretary during 2011 and members were delighted when she agreed to carry on the good work in 2012 .

There are already plans for a trip to see *Grease* at Barry Memorial Hall on February 10. Later in the year, an outing is to become part of the audience of the TV programme '*Deal or No Deal*' and next December to see *Phantom of The Opera* when it comes to Cardiff.

Potential new members are always welcome to come along to The Old Community Centre St Athan on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm.

XC

Transition Harvest Llantwit: 'POCKET-FULLS, HAT-FULLS, AND BUSHEL-BAG-FULLS'

TRANSITION Llantwit would like to say a big 'thank you' to all those who joined in the first-ever Harvest Llantwit.

There have been 13 generous donors in Llantwit Major, Boverton, St Athan and Llanmaes, offering to share their surplus apples, plums, pears, and crab apples, mostly with complete strangers.

Nineteen people in the area, wishing to use the fruit, were put in touch with the donors, making amazingly good use of it, including apple pies, plum jam for the Samaritans, cider, puddings for a residential home, crab apple jelly, and chutneys.

Some users experimented with new ways of using all this free food, including sautéed apples, apples in soups, and a scrummy pear and marzipan tart.

It has proved impossible to work out how much fruit has changed hands, but users' examples include: three Ikea bags of apples and one Ikea bag of pears for juicing; 35 – 40lb of cooking apples to make 20 apple pies; an astounding 100kg of apples to make cider.

I would like to mention the performance of our trees, especially a Victoria plum in Boverton, which produced about 24 carrier-bags-full, and my own majestic Bramley, estimated to have yielded half a tonne this year.

If you have any space in your garden, Transition Llantwit urges you to plant fruit trees. If you don't have space, but still fancy growing them, contact 796849 or transition.llantwit@gmail.com to join our community orchard projects.

Meanwhile, lets hope for another bountiful crop in 2012. In the words of the Wassail song:

"Health to thee, good apple-tree,
Well to bear, pocket-fulls, hat-fulls,
Peck-fulls, bushel-bag-fulls."

ANNIE PAINE

Cowbridge under-12s in fine form with confident win over St Peter's

COWBRIDGE under-12s travelled to Cardiff to face St Peter's and it was the home team that made the early running.

From a line-out in their 22, a St Peter's try seemed inevitable when a great dummy fooled the Cowbridge backs and the outside-half was provided with what appeared like a clear run to the try-line.

However, games are often won by tackling and somehow Jac Roberts found that extra stride to catch his opponent.

St Peters recycled, but a strong tackle by Sam Corkill resulted in the ball popping out into Ioan Lewis' hands.

Quick passing by Rhys Bradshaw and Morgan Gore put fullback Evan Williams away, rounding two opponents to score the opening try, which was well converted by Morgan Gore.

The second Cowbridge try came when Evan Williams fielded a kick ahead and ground, with good support from Sam Bluck and Max Cunnington taking play to within 10 metres of the home team's try-line.

Turn over ball was again kicked towards Evan, who again ignited the counter-attack. Luc Beatie threatened and from the ruck, quick-thinking Ioan Lewis spied a gap and burst through, off-loading to Max Lucas who was tackled within a metre of the line.

The ball was then passed down the line, with Max Cunnington drawing two opponents before the strong running Luc forced his way over for a well deserved try and a 12-0 score.

The third try was spectacular, with scrum half Ioan Lewis setting off from a ruck, committing three opponents, before sending a lofted pass to Evan Williams, who weaved his way through to score his second try. He converted to extend the lead to 19–0.

In the closing quarter, the Cowbridge back-row of Jac Roberts, Sam Corkill and William Davies were determined in defence with each providing try-saving tackles. The visitors' final try resulted from a wayward St Peters' kick, caught by Sam Corkill.

The ball was spun out to Liam Murphy, whose running angle provided Luc Beatie with an opportunity to run in a tremendous try from about 30 metres out. This was converted by Morgan Gore.

In the final minute the considerable efforts of the St Peters team resulted in a wonderful series of inter-passing between their forwards and backs to score a deserved try, for a final score of 26–5.

GD

Gwahoddiad!

NOSON Ymarfer Carolau wedi'u drefnu gan Bwyllgor Dysgwyr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg.

Pryd? Nos Fawrth, Rhagfyr 20fed am 6pm.
Lle? Ysgol Sant Curig, y Barri.
Faint? Am ddim!

Os oes gennych declyn sganio 'QR' ar eich ffôn, mae'r côd 'QR' ar waelod y poster (y peth sy'n edrych fel 'barcode'!) yn eich arwain at adran Maes D ar Facebook sydd hefyd yn cynnwys manylion am y digwyddiad. Neu cliciwch yma, http://www.facebook.com/pages/Maes-D/166107623478724.

Invitation!

COME and practice your carol singing in Welsh. You don't need to speak Welsh to attend! This event is organised by the Learners' Committee, Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod.

When? Tuesday, December 20th at 6pm.
Where? Sant Curig School, Barry.
How much? Free!

If you have a QR Reader on your phone, scanning the QR code on the bottom of the poster (the box that looks like a barcode!) will lead you to the Maes D section on Facebook which also includes details of the event. Or click here - http://www.facebook.com/pages/Maes-D/166107623478724.

Ploughing match was big success

THE VALE of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society held their management committee meeting on December 8 in Penmark, chaired by Andrew Sudley.

A report was given on the first ploughing match to be held in the Vale, which took place in Llanmaes in September. The treasurer reported that it was a great success resulting in a sound balance, but suggested that the committee needs to raise some funds for next year's event, which will be held on September 16.

The site for next year's match has yet to be decided. The chairman hoped that there would be an increase in local competitors for next year's match.

It was noted that The Ferguson Club members are growing in number and entering most ploughing matches in Wales and the Border Counties, in the T20 Class.

Anyone seeking information relating to each of the eight classes for next year's ploughing match should contact the match secretary, Jeremy Jacobs, on 02920 811202.

The chairman proposed that the Society stages a tractor run in late spring to raise funds which will be split between the society and the Ed Evans Foundation brain tumour cancer fund.

The next meeting of the management committee will be held in Penmark on January 19. Information can be obtained from the chairman, Andrew Studley, on 07980 921990, or 01446 781229. **BG**

SPECIAL AWARD FOR LOCAL SCHOOL

Left to right: Teacher Mrs Victoria Halsall, Alun Cairns MP and pupils Chantelle Preece, Arthur Lagua and Chelsea Alazia.

ALUN CAIRNS, MP for the Vale of Glamorgan, recently visited Ysgol Maes Dyfan in Barry to congratulate it on gaining the ICT Mark.

He was welcomed by headteacher Mrs Iorylle Aubrey and staff before meeting pupils.

School choir was in fine voice at Afternoon Club

Murch Junior School choir are pictured, above, entertaining members of the Murch Wednesday Afternoon Club at the Christmas party, with Dinas Powys Community Council Chair, Chris Williams.

MURCH Junior School choir entertained the Wednesday Afternoon Club at their Christmas party with an amazing range of carols.

Led by Mrs Messer, the Deputy Head, the club members were enthralled by the singing by years-5 and 6. Mrs Renee Gannon made the introductions, welcomed all the club members and thanked all who had helped.

The Murchfield hall was full to overflowing, which is a testament to the popularity of the club and the hard work of the committee.

The audience of senior citizens enjoyed every minute of the singing. Chair of the Community Council, Coun Chris Williams was a guest and was impressed by the choir.

The songs included 'All around the world', 'Bethlehem is calling', 'The Holly and the Mistletoe' and 'Jesus is our gift from God.'

Hannah Lewis sang a delightful solo, 'In the bleak midwinter', while traditional carols were not ignored with 'Away in a manger' and 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'.

During the afternoon, Father Christmas (or at least a young version of Father Christmas) gave out presents to the audience!

Elizabeth Millard thanked the children for their excellent singing and wished everyone a happy Christmas. **CF**

Villagers sing carols around Llancarfan Christmas tree

ABOVE:
The Llancarfan Christmas tree proved a great hit with carol singers young and old.

MORE than 100 villagers turned out to sing carols during the lighting of the Llancarfan Christmas tree.

Special guest of honour was Nia Thomas, winner of the Llancarfan Primary School's painting competition, who flicked the switch on the magnificent lights of the Christmas tree, that lit the evening sky.

Jo Ford led the carollers with hearty renditions of favourite Christmas tunes and Claire Williams kept everyone warm with mulled wine, mince pies and treats for the children.

Spokesman John Ford said: "We would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the evening, Paul, Max, Matt, Rich and John for putting up the tree – Thanks must go to the Thomas family for allowing us to use their equipment and the Archibold family who are providing the important power to the lights again this year.

"All funds raised on the evening were donated to the Cerys Potter Memorial Fund."

Friends' party

FRIENDS and neighbours held a Christmas party at Cwm Talwg Community Centre in Barry, when more than 50 people enjoyed a traditional four-course lunch, followed by tea and coffee and mince pies.

Entertainment was provided by Changing Scene Theatre Company, who gave an hour of music, song and dance from many well known musicals.

The senior girls from the dance group are appearing in Stan Stennett's *Dick Whittington* at Aberdare and Beaufort Theatre.

Everyone showed their appreciation by clapping along to many well known lyrics

Helping during the event were 372 Squadron. All friends and neighbours received a Christmas gift.

The event was supported by local businesses, Aberthaw Power Station, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Rotary Club and Western Power and the group is extremely grateful for their support.

The party was also attended by AM Jane Hutt, who thanked the volunteers and wished everybody a festive and merry Christmas. **GF**

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan

Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

IT'S been a difficult year for the National Eisteddfod, as it has been for a number of other organisations. We've seen a number of festivals cancelled, and others worried about their future success.

But with a history spanning 150 years in its modern form, the Eisteddfod is adjusting and developing, responding to the challenges ahead, determined to ensure the success of next year's Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod, and the festivals of the future.

Speaking this week, Chief Executive, Elfed Roberts, said: "We've been working locally for well over a year now and it's going well. Naturally, we've been looking at our costs carefully and at our potential income, and we've now identified a number of savings.

"We want to ensure a successful festival on a number of levels – a festival which appeals to our audience and, of course, an Eisteddfod which allows us to gain a stronger financial footing, even at a time when the country is still facing financial worries.

"Making savings isn't a new challenge for the Eisteddfod. We've been making constant cuts since 2004, but this year, we've reached a stage where we have to make additional savings and it's very likely that future Eisteddfodau will look different.

"But this is also an opportunity for us to experiment and to look at doing things in different ways, and it's important that people realise this and give these changes a chance before voicing their opinions."

Changes next year will include a smaller pavilion with a revised seating plan, with the number of seats available remaining the same. This will provide a considerable saving for the festival, and is a chance to try something different.

Elfed Roberts explains: "It's an experiment in 2012, and if it appeals to the audience, the competitors and the broadcasters, then it could be a permanent change. We'll also be holding Maes C events on the Maes itself. Traditionally, these have been held on the caravan site but we've decided to try something a little different this year.

"If you were in Wrexham earlier this year, you couldn't help but notice the great atmosphere around the performance stages in the evening, and we want to make sure this continues in the future, so we're hoping that people will stay on the Maes in the evening and we'll be encouraging more people to join us.

"We'll also be experimenting with our current resources next year, using buildings like Y Lle Celf, the Theatre and the Babell Lên in a different way in the evening.

"There's been a lot of discussions about the Eisteddfod in the press and media over recent weeks, but one issue which hasn't been discussed much is the effect the Eisteddfod has on the local catchment area.

"Hosting the Eisteddfod is a great boost to an area, not only economically but also on a cultural, community and linguistic basis. It's a unique event, an event which hasn't been in the Vale since 1968, and I urge you to support our visit, by taking part, by volunteering, but most of all, by visiting us during the week.

"We want to ensure the success of the 2012 festival – please help us to make this happen."

Bu'n flwyddyn anodd i'r Eisteddfod Genedlaethol fel nifer o sefydliadau eraill, a rydym wedi gweld nifer o wyliau'n cael eu canslo ac eraill yn poeni am eu dyfodol.

Ond gyda'r Eisteddfod fodern wedi bodoli am ganrif a hanner, mae'r sefydliad yn addasu ac yn datblygu, gan ymateb i sialensau, yn benderfynoli sicrhau llwyddiant Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg y flwyddyn nesaf, a gwyliau'r dyfodol.

Gan siarad yr wythnos hon, dywedodd Prif Weithredwr yr Eisteddfod, Elfed Roberts: "Rydan ni wedi bod yn gweithio'n lleol ers ymhell dros flwyddyn bellach, ac mae'r trefniadau'n mynd yn dda. Yn naturiol, rydan ni wedi bod yn edrych yn ofalus ar ein costau ac ar ein incwm posibl, ac erbyn hyn rydan ni wedi adnabod nifer fawr o arbedion.

ABOVE: Elfed Roberts, Eisteddfod chief executive.

Rydan ni eisiau sicrhau gw^yl lwyddiannus ar nifer o lefelau – Eisteddfod sy'n apelio at ein cynulleidfa ac wrth gwrs, Eisteddfod sy'n gyfle i ni ddod â dau ben llinyn ynghyd, er gwaethaf y rhagolygon economaidd sy'n ein wynebu fel gwlad.

"Dyw cael hyd i arbedion ddim yn beth newydd i ni fel Eisteddfod. Rydan ni wedi bod yn torri'n ôl yn barhaus ers 2004, ond eleni, rydan ni wedi cyrraedd sefyllfa lle mae'n rhaid i ni wneud rhagor o doriadau ac mae'n debygol iawn y bydd Eisteddfodau'r dyfodol yn edrych yn wahanol.

"Ond mae hyn hefyd yn rhoi cyfle i ni arbrofi ac i edrych ar wneud pethau mewn ffyrdd gwahanol a newydd, ac mae'n bwysig bod pobl yn sylweddoli hyn ac yn gweld sut mae'r newidiadau'n gweithio cyn mynegi barn."

Bydd newidiadau y flwyddyn nesaf yn cynnwys pafiliwn llai, gyda chynllun seddau newydd – ond nid llai o seddau. Bydd hyn yn creu arbediad mawr i'r Eisteddfod, ac mae'n gyfle i roi tro ar bethau newydd.

Eglura Elfed Roberts: "Arbrawf fydd hyn yn 2012, ac os yw'n apelio at y gynulleidfa, y cystadleuwyr a'r darlledwyr, yna, efallai y bydd hyn yn cael ei wneud bob blwyddyn. Byddwn hefyd yn cynnal gweithgareddau Maes C ar y Maes ei hun. Yn draddodiadol, cynhaliwyd y rhain ar y maes carafanau, ond rydan ni wedi penderfynu arbrofi eleni.

"Roedd 'na awyrgylch arbennig o amgylch y llwyfannau perfformio gyda'r nos yn Wrecsam, a rydym yn awyddus i weld hyn yn parhau yn y dyfodol, felly rydan ni'n gobeithio y bydd pobl yn aros ar y Maes yn hwyrach eleni, ac mi fyddan ni hefyd yn annog rhagor o bobl i ymuno gyda ni. Arbrofi y byddwn ni gyda'n hadnoddau cyfredol y flwyddyn nesaf, gan ddefnyddio adeiladau fel Y Lle Celf, y Theatr a'r Babell Lên mewn ffordd wahanol gyda'r nos.

"Mae llawer o bobl wedi bod yn mynegi barn ar yr Eisteddfod dros yr wythnosau diwethaf, yn awgrymu gwelliannau ac yn cynnig syniadau ar sut y gallwn greu arbedion. Ond yr hyn sydd heb ei drafod ryw lawer yw'r effaith mae'r Eisteddfod yn ei chael ar ei dalgylch. Mae

cynnal yr Eisteddfod yn talu ar ei ganfed i ardal, nid yn unig yn economaidd, ond hefyd yn ddiwylliannol, yn gymunedol ac yn ieithyddol. Mae'n ddigwyddiad unigryw, digwyddiad sydd heb fod i'r Fro ers 1968, ac rwy'n eich hannog i'n cefnogi gan gymryd rhan, gan wirfoddoli, ond fwyaf oll, gan ymweld â ni yn ystod yr wythnos.

"Rydan ni'n awyddus i sicrhau llwyddiant Eisteddfod 2012 – a rydym yn gofyn i chi am eich cymorth er mwyn i hyn ddigwydd."

SIONED EDWARDS

BLOOD DONORS

THE Welsh Blood Service will be holding donor sessions this month as follows:

Bedwas Hall, Memorial Hall, Gladstone Road, Barry – December 20 at 10am-6pm;

Mobile Donation Clinic, Recreation Centre, Angel Street, Bridgend – (Please call 01443 622193 or email *donor.appointments@wales.nhs.uk)* December 21 at 10am-12.30pm; and 2pm-6pm. December 22 at 10am-12.30pm; and 2pm-6pm. December 23 at 9am-1pm.

Highlight Community Centre, Stirling Road, Barry – December 29 at 10am-6pm.

To view a comprehensive list of all blood donation sessions, visit ***www.welshblood.org.uk*** *or call* ***0800 252266.***

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Out and About with The GEM

Thrift shop

THE St Athan Thrift Shop, Woodpecker Square, closed at 12pm yesterday (December 14) until 10am on Monday, January 9, 2012.

"We would like to wish all our customers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and look forward to seeing you all in 2012," a spokeswoman said.

Christmas get-together

BUSINESSES in Llantwit Major and the surrounding areas (Rhoose, St Athan, Llandow, Wick and Boverton) are welcome to join the town's Chamber of Trade and Commerce for a glass of wine and a mince pie this evening, (Thursday, December 15) in Llantonian Hall at 6pm.

A spokeswoman said: "This last event of 2011 gives us an opportunity to meet and find out what local businesses need the Chamber to do for them in 2012, especially with the Eisteddfod coming to Llandow next summer,"

For details, email penny@llantwitmajor-chamberoftrade.co.uk

Band concert

TODAY, Thursday, December 15 at 7.30pm, the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band will be hosting their family Christmas concert in Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

The evening will feature the band, the St Athan Youth Band, Robin Tait (piano), carols, readings and festive songs.

Tickets £5 each, under 14 free; available from Chris Davies Estate Agent, Llantwit Major, on the door, or telephone 01446 798527.

The St Athan band will also be at the Four Bells, St Athan at 8pm on Sunday; the Vale Mayor's carol service at St Illtuds on December 19 at 7pm; and St Tathan Church Christmas concert on December 23 at 7.30pm.

Carols in the Park

THERE will be a free carol service in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care at Victoria Park, Barry, at 6pm-8pm on Friday, December 16.

Barry Brass Band will be joined by Barry Ladies Choir for the third annual carol concert in aid of the charity.

From 5pm there will be a Santa's grotto for the little ones and a carousel.

At Cadoxton Bowling Club, Rowena and the team have cakes, teas, coffees and even soup to buy to keep you warm and in good voice. All proceeds from the event will go directly to th Macmillan charity.

Festive coffee

A CHRISTMAS coffee morning will be held at Llantwit Major Bowls Club on Saturday, December 17, from 10am to 12 noon. Entrance is £3, which includes tea/coffee and mince pie/shortbread and a top up!

There will be a cake stall and raffle.

Everyone is welcome.

Yuletide play-along

ATAPINI and Lee Kennedy invite the public to a Yuletide musical community offering at Barry Meditation Centre on Saturday, December 17 (2pm-4.30pm) with a set of mainly original material for piano, guitar and vocals.

Bring your instrument if you wish to join in.

Mince pies and mulled apple juice will be served.

A donation for the centre appreciated. It is situated at Canon Hill Artspace, Canon Hill, Barry.

Christingle service

THE Christingle service this Sunday (December 18) at 4pm for families and children, heralds the coming of Christmas at the Barry church of St Paul.

The collection taken at the service is given to support children in poor circumstances in Wales.

The traditional service of carols (the first Mass of Christmas and Blessing of the Christmas Crib) is at 9.30pm on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning, carols, procession and sung mass at 10am.

'Carols by candlelight' on Christmas Eve takes place at 3pm at Merthyr Dyfan, Colcot, Barry, and the Christmas morning service is at 8.45am.

Penarth services

THE Parish of Penarth All Saints is holding a number of special services over the Christmas period.

At All Saints Church on Sunday, December 18, there will be an all-age Nativity service at 10am and the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm; on Christmas Eve, the Crib service for younger children at 4pm and Midnight Mass at 11.30pm; and on Christmas Day, Holy Eucharist at 8am and an all-age service at 10am.

At St Peter's, Old Cogan, there will be a Christingle service for all the family at 3.30pm on Sunday, December 18, and a Christmas Day service at 11am. All are welcome.

St Hilary carols

ON Sunday, December 18 at 6.30pm in St Hilary Church, there is a carol service with the village choir and members of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

At 8pm, the last quiz of 2011 takes place at The Bush – a very festive edition is planned!

Band Concert

BARRY Ladies Choir holds a Christmas carol concert at 7.30pm on Tuesday, December 20, at Masonic Hall, Broad Street, Barry. Tickets £6 from choir members or pay at the door.

Carols

CADOXTON Christian Spiritualist Church holds a candle lit carol service on December 21 at 7pm, followed by refreshments.

Charlotte (10) joins Cardiff cast of *Oliver*

A LOCAL youngster is to appear in Cameron Mackintosh's new production of Lionel Bart's smash hit musical *Oliver!* at the Wales Millennium Centre until January 21.

Charlotte Nicholas, photographed by Tim Dickenson

Charlotte Nicholas (10) from Cowbridge, will appear in the new production, which stars Neil Morrissey, of *Men Behaving Badly* and *Waterloo Road* fame as Fagin and Samantha Barks as Nancy.

They are joined by former *The Bill* actor Iain Fletcher as Bill Sikes, whose TV appearances include *Casualty, Doctors,* and *Band of Brothers.*

Charlotte was chosen along with another 49 youngsters in auditions last summer. She has previously appeared on the Donald Gordon stage having appeared in the *Les Misérables* tour in 2009.

SHOPPING COMPETITION

ONE LUCKY GEM WINNER

THE lucky winner of The GEM competition, run in conjunction with our feature on shopping in Bridgend, was Jeni Jenkins of Llantwit Major.

Jeni has chosen to spend her prize – a £25 voucher – at Wild About Beads in Ewenny Road. Look out in your GEM for more great competitions!

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Cracker jackpot lottery draw number D700.

- **£2,000:** 539066.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £5,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 753185, 559763, 340262, 474375, 435668, 557516, 818967, 713375, 371708, 706102, 899415, 497080, 840451, 827229, 826792, 476741, 482050, 183575, 257208, 605876.
- **£5:** 396564, 577320, 478975, 869088, 555462, 328440, 801340, 501637, 498486, 279808, 329883, 839362, 526391, 876940, 717839, 370910, 799869, 232205, 605611, 967494, 808735, 882276, 269386, 596787, 376527, 696781, 134173, 296434, 896686, 115647, 410386, 742721, 875871, 814655, 949600, 550421, 763122, 933231, 432231, 208402, 705537, 483949, 917168, 359176, 794786, 513698, 438993, 625395, 343707, 228476, 777936, 171817, 373584, 532961, 333670, 825007, 409573, 665538, 541245, 325470.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information, please telephone 02920 672062.

CHURCH OPENING SOON

AFTER a six-month project, All Saints Church, Penarth, is preparing to open its new-look church building.

Christmas services are: Sunday, December 18 – Nativity service at 10am; Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6pm. Christmas Eve – crib service for younger children and their families at 4pm; First Eucharist of Christmas at 11.30pm. Christmas Day – Holy Eucharist at 8 am; All Age Service at 10am.

There will also be services at St Peter's Old Cogan. Contact Rev Peter Cox on 02920 708952 for further information.

ALI DELGADO AT KING BILLY

THE King William pub would like to point out that their Christmas Eve entertainment, Ali Delgado, a female solo vocalist, will run from 7pm to 9pm.

On Friday, December 30, the singer Elisa Jones, will perform from 7pm to 9pm.

Vale MP's surgery

THE Vale MP Alun Cairns, will be holding advice surgeries on Friday, December 16, from 1.30pm to 3pm in Barry Library, King Square, Barry, and from 4pm to 5.30pm at Wenvoe Community Centre, Wenvoe.

Surgeries are very busy, so it is advisable to telephone 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

PACT meetings

***DYFAN** and **GIBBONSDOWN** joint PACT surgery, 10am-12 noon, December 15 at Coast Cafe (side of Coastlands Church), Tennyson Road, Barry.*

***BUTTRILLS PACT**, 6.30pm, December 15, Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, Tynewydd Road.*

***WENVOE** coffee and chat meeting, December 16, Wenvoe Arms at 1am.*

***LLANDOW/EWENNY PACT**, December 21 at Ewenny Village Hall at 7pm.*

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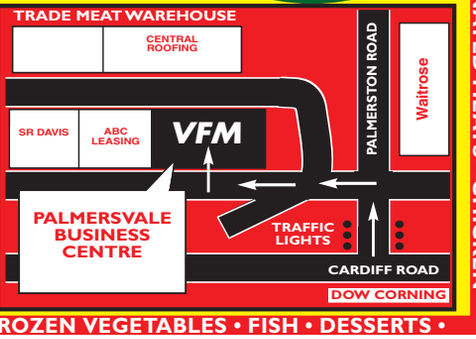

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Penarth man suffered a 'horrific wound' after a knife attack

– CARDIFF CROWN COURT IS TOLD

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

ARMED with a knife, a mentally-ill man carried out an attack in Penarth which resulted in his victim suffering a "horrific wound", Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Leslie Bann plunged the weapon into the neck of neighbour, Paul Britton, whose life was only spared by "the grace of God", said the Recorder of Cardiff, Judge Nicholas Cooke.

Bann was arrested when a police armed response group was called in and officers were forced to taser him, when he began struggling.

Bann (46), of Glebe Street, Penarth, admitted a charge of wounding with intent and was sentenced to be detained in a psychiatric hospital for an indefinite period.

He pleaded not guilty to attempted murder, which was not proceeded with, and it was directed that the charge lie on the file.

The court heard that Mr Britton lost so much blood, up to four litres had to be transfused into him.

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said that Mr Britton at the time had problems with alcohol and was also living in Glebe Street.

On the night of June 21, the two men spent about 20 minutes together smoking and drinking, and then went their separate ways.

A few minutes later, Bann asked to borrow more tobacco.

Mr Trigg said that suddenly Bann lunged at Mr Britton and plunged a knife into his neck.

"Blood spurted from the wound," said Mr Trigg.

Mr Britton managed to get into the garden for help.

This was unavailable, and he returned to the flat where Bann was holding a knife and laughing.

Mr Britton then went to a nearby pub for help. Police later found him outside the premises with a tea towel over his head.

"His clothes were saturated with blood. He was taken to hospital and a vascular surgeon was brought from the Royal Gwent Hospital with a police escort and he was operated upon.

"He had a large cut to the thyroid gland and artery."

"It could easily have been fatal," said the Judge.

Mr Trigg said he was discharged three days later and added: "I'm happy to say he has moved to the Midlands, and is living in a Christian hostel.

"He is free of alcohol and is getting on very well with his life."

The court heard that an armed response group arrested Bann, who told them: "I didn't do it. Just kill me, I want to die."

There was a struggle and he was tasered. He later admitted what he had done, saying: "I heard voices."

Mr Trigg said the attack had had a profound effect on the victim, who now had a visible scar on his neck, which had made his search for work difficult.

Bann, said Mr Trigg, suffered from paranoid schizophrenia.

He was said to have convictions for causing criminal damage, dishonesty and assault.

His counsel Robin Shellard, said that for 10 years, he had struggled with increasing mental health problems and many agencies had attempted to help him.

He would drink too much and not take his medication.

In the days leading up to the attack, his daughter, who Bann described as 'the best daughter in the world', had become more and more concerned about him and attempted to obtain help.

He had become suicidal, agitated, said he heard voices, and his daughter felt he should have been sectioned.

Once, he took 10 times the dose of his medicine and, said Mr Shellard, she felt she had been sent "from pillar to post".

Psychiatrist Dr Peter Williams said for 10 years, Bann had had "challenging difficulties" punctuated by episodic admissions to hospital. There was also heavy and protracted use of alcohol.

The judge said he could not order one, but it would be desirable if there was an inquiry into the events before the stabbing.

He added that he was anxious that there would not be a witchhunt.

The victim, Bann and his family were entitled to have enquiries made, he said.

The judge added that the attack was horrifying, carried out by a man suffering from a terrifying illness, for the person who suffers from it and because of the risk to the public.

It was clear, said the Judge, Bann suffered dangerous hallucinations and he would be detained for as long as was necessary.

Dogs Trust's big thanks

STAFF at Dogs Trust Bridgend have said a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas fair by attending, giving a donation or by volunteering their time.

Beverley Price, rehoming manager at the centre said: "We raised an incredible £2,700, along with other kind donations of gifts for the dogs in our care. We currently have 69 dogs here who are all looking to swap kennel life for a lasting home.

"We have dogs of all shapes, sizes and breeds here, so we'd like to encourage anyone looking for a dog to pay us a visit."

In line with its slogan, 'A Dog is For Life, not just for Christmas', Dogs Trust Bridgend will not be rehoming between December 19 and January 2 – although people are still welcome to visit to see the dogs.

Mari Llwyd in Llantwit fun

Photographs by **ANDY WICKS**

The Welsh mid-winter tradition of Mari Llwyd arrived in the town of Llantwit Major on December 9, to bring good cheer and singing to the town's pubs. The event was organised to raise funds for cancer charities.

'Fracking': Plaid AM questions Assembly Environment Minister

PLAID CYMRU'S Leanne Wood has called for the Environment Minister in Wales to place a moratorium on the extraction of shale gas until more is known about the potential side-effects.

The AM for South Wales Central questioned John Griffiths during a recent plenary session following a controversial planning application to begin test drilling for shale gas in the Vale.

There has been much local opposition to the process which is more commonly known as 'fracking.' Reports from the United States, where shale gas extraction is more advanced, suggests extraction brings a risk to ground and surface water because of the chemicals used in the extraction process.

Ms Wood said: "There has been a lot of concern about proposals to test for the viability of hydraulic fracturing in the Vale of Glamorgan in recent months.

"As you will be aware, this is commonly known as fracking, and there are many unanswered questions about its side effects and the impact on the local environment.

"In a report that went before the Vale Council last month, for example, Dwr Cymru raised concerns that proposals could lead to the contamination of ground water, and said that any future applications should be accompanied by an environmental statement covering such matters.

"Dwr Cymru sources around five per cent of its supplies from ground water, and elsewhere there have been concerns about earth tremors.

"Will you agree to make representations to your counterparts in Westminster to call for a moratorium on onshore and offshore exploration, development and production of shale gas until these questions over safety and potential environmental damage are resolved?"

In reply, the Minister said: "As I have stated in the Chamber on many occasions, I am not able to comment on the merits or otherwise of any particular planning application or development.

"In general, in terms of shale gas, I am on record as stating the Welsh Government's position, which is that we understand the concerns that were expressed about exploration and the tapping of reserves.

"Our position is to communicate those concerns to the UK Government and be part of the development of the UK response.

"We have our own precautionary planning approach, which is set out in our planning policy, and indeed in the technical advice note on mineral policy."

Jimbill's easy Fakenham win

AT Fakenham on Monday, five-year-old Jimbill gave the Vale's Tim Vaughan his tenth winner at this far-flung racecourse.

Confidently ridden by Richard Johnson, Jimbill, the odds-on favourite, took the opening selling hurdle race coming home 17 lengths ahead of San Telm.

Jimbill was Vaughan's 33rd runner at Fakenham, giving him an impressive strike rate of more than 41 per cent.

BRIAN LEE

Fundraising award for the Breathe Easy group

THIS year's Breathe Easy awards, for people with lung conditions, saw Bridgend Breathe Easy group win an award for fundraising at a ceremony in the Welsh capital earlier this month.

Each year, BLF organises "Breath of Fresh Air Awards" for Breathe Easy groups and members who have made "outstanding contributions" to support their group and the work of BLF over the past year. Breathe Easy groups are for people with lung conditions, their families and carers.

Dr Patrick Flood-Page, chair of BLF Wales, and a respiratory consultant, presented the awards to the winners at the ceremony.

Bridgend Breathe Easy group received an award for 'Outstanding Contribution to BLF projects', through their fundraising efforts.

Chris Mulholland, head of BLF Wales, said: "This is a fantastic achievement by the Bridgend Breathe Easy group, and we are delighted that they have won this award. For many people in Wales, the BLF helpline is a lifeline. The same goes for our Breathe Easy groups. And medical research is vital in helping us understand lung diseases, and develop new treatments.

"None of this would be possible without the money raised by groups like Bridgend. So I want to say thank you to them for their wonderful work, helping others to breathe more easily."

Heather Day of Bridgend Breathe Easy group receives the group's award from BLF Wales' chair, Dr Patrick Flood-Page.

This Puss cuts easy swathe through your funny bone!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

WHILE the *Shrek* franchise lost a little bit of its sparkle with every subsequent outing, the one true stand–out was the character of Puss In Boots.

With his smooth Spanish style, a sharpened rapier and the biggest eyes in animation, the character's popularity meant that a spin–off was a matter of when and not if.

That spin–off finally reaches cinema screens with the originally–titled *Puss In Boots*. Antonio Banderas again voices the cat, who, along with his friends Kitty Softpaws (Salma Hayek) and Humpty Dumpty (Zach Galifianakis), attempts to track down the evil Jack and Jill (Billy Bob Thornton and Amy Sedaris) who have discovered magic beans that could lead to the three friends' fortune...

When the announcement was made that *Puss In Boots* was to have his own spin–off, you couldn't help but feel that it was an attempt by Dreamworks to try and drain a little more cash from the *Shrek* well.

The law of diminishing returns, at least critically, had struck that particular franchise, so a reboot using one of the most popular characters seemed to be a decision based more on cash flow than creating a work of artistic merit.

Thankfully the end product feels less like a cash–in, *Puss In Boots* delivering everything you would hope for, and while hardly pulling up trees, has enough about it to entertain both young and old.

Certainly it aims to be more of a swashbuckler, the pop culture references that at times drowned out the comedy in the *Shrek* franchise reduced to nothing, while the comedy delivers the broad humour so beloved of youngsters, with some gags aimed squarely at the older portion of the audience.

It appears the lessons of the green ogre's demise have been learned then, the film resting squarely on the shoulders of Puss and his new cohorts, with nary a winking cameo or portent of things to come. Instead, this prequel sets up the character superbly well, filling in the gaps between his birth and his meeting in the second *Shrek* film.

While an origin story of sorts, the script zips along at a fiendish pace, its 90–minute running time going by in a flash with a story that delivers the requisite amount of derring do and spectacle, while still having time to delve into the pasts of the characters.

Certainly the main characters of Puss and Humpty Dumpty feel far more fleshed out than the villainous Jack and Jill (despite their quirky characters). But by and large, the story as a whole is an engaging and pleasant experience that leaves you wanting more come the conclusion.

While Chris Miller helmed the disappointing *Shrek the Third*, he is on far more solid ground here, giving the film a gorgeous visual feel that is only embellished by the use of 3D, the colours feeling richer and the depth and clarity of the image being lent extra power by the technology.

He also is able to fashion several set–pieces that balance drama and comedy, the film having a scope that is immersive and wonderful to see.

The vocal cast are all impressive, Antonio Banderas nailing the tongue–in–cheek humour and playfulness of the main character, yet playing it with the smallest of winks, the character losing nothing in his step–up from being a supporting player to a lead character.

He shares a pleasing chemistry with both of his main co–stars, Salma Hayek being a slinky and playful foil for Banderas, while Zach Galifianakis dials down his quirky humour and plays it (fairly) straight as Humpty, the character's sad past given extra poignancy by the actor's vocal stylings.

It's a shame that Jack and Jill aren't given as much to do, as Billy Bob Thornton and Amy Sedaris do sterling work as the villainous pair. However, as in the script, the pair are short-changed by having very little to do, the characters carrying a menace that, come the film's conclusion, is nullified by the bigger story.

While an entertaining spectacle, there isn't much to really make *Puss In Boots* stand out from the crowd other than name recognition; but what there is of it makes for an entertaining way to spend an hour and a half of your life.

Slight but hugely entertaining, this Puss will be be catnip if you love his adventures!

VERDICT - An entertaining first full–length outing for the wide–eyed kitten, *Puss In Boots* has enough excitement, comedy and adventure to amuse the audience without overtly stretching itself.

It may not have the long–life factor, but it will certainly keep you engaged throughout, and the prospects of further adventures for Puss certainly wouldn't be sniffed at! *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: The Shrek franchise (2001-2010), The Mask Of Zorro (1998)

Lighting up festive time at the Murch

PLAID Cymru AM Leanne Wood helped local residents kick-start the festive period by switching on Christmas lights in Dinas Powys.

Residents at The Murch turned out for an evening of minced pies, mulled wine, dancing, singing and a raffle at the office of the All Saints Domiciliary Care Agency, where a Christmas party was being held.

Leanne was joined (*above*) by her former Assembly colleague, Chris Franks, who is a local resident.

Ms Wood, a regional Assembly Member for south Wales central, which includes the Vale, said:

"It was great to see the children and parents enjoying themselves at this event, which brought together the community in this part of Dinas Powys.

"The effort that people made in dressing up was impressive and I was pleased to play a small part in the evening."

Has anyone lost a little blind cat?

A LITTLE blind cat called Currant has touched the hearts of staff at Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption centre after she was found wandering at Bridgend SWALEC site.

The centre was contacted on November 21 by concerned staff at SWALEC who reported a tabby cat was in serious danger of being run over on the busy road at the industrial estate.

She had managed to survive for two weeks on the industrial estate as concerned staff had put food out for her.

The little cat was put in an emergency pen at the centre and given the name Currant.

It was then discovered that sadly, Currant was blind. Cat carer Katie Edwards reported: "When I went to scan Currant for a microchip, she walked straight up to me and started meowing. There didn't appear to be any problem with her eye sigh, but knowing what I know now the poor little cat was responding to my voice."

Currant has now been fully examined by a specialised vet at Shepherds hospital who believes she has been blind for some time and says is in a very good condition.

Bridgend Adoption Centre staff are now hoping for a happy ending, and are and trying to reunite Currant with her owners in time for Christmas.

They are wondering if she made her way to the industrial estate in a courier van which could mean she is from another area. If the centre is unable to locate Currant's owner, they will look for a suitable home for her.

Contact the centre on 01656 724396 or email bridgend@cats.org.uk if you have any information.

'Voyage' into the past that takes in Barry

BOOK REVIEW
by MIKE WILCOCK

***COASTER of South Wales* by Bernard McCall £17.50.**

With almost 100 pages of full colour photographs featuring coasters at ports from Swansea to Chepstow, this is another excellent book to add to the Christmas present list, for those interested in local shipping and industrial history.

Many of the photographs illustrate the changing scene in traditional port areas and I was especially interested in Barry Docks, with over a dozen colour images starting at Barry Roads.

As an example on page 36, the coaster *Mossville* heads towards the locks in 1969, passing Nell's Point and the large Butlin's holiday camp seen in the distance.

Memories come flooding back of the days when over 5,000 people would enjoy their holiday in south Wales at this special attraction.

The narrative on every page lists the national flag of the ship, its gross registered tonnage and the final two digits indicate the year the ship was built.

The author and photographers have included views of unfamiliar wharves and jetties in the area and also the background scenes add to each of over 116 images.

Although I'm a railway enthusiast, a chance to review a book on shipping came as a pleasant suprise.

The information contained in this book on ship design, size, history and ownership gave me many hours of reading and now I will take my video camera along the coast to follow the *Coaster of South Wales*.

For details of how to get the book, visit **www.coastalshipping.co.uk**

'STILL TIME FOR A LETTER FROM SANTA'

THE NSPCC is reminding parents in the area that there is still time to add some extra magic to a child's Christmas this year by ordering a letter from Santa.

The charity's annual fundraising campaign gives family and friends the chance to nominate a special child to receive a personalised letter from Santa, for a suggested donation of £5.

More than 200,000 letters have already been ordered, with more than 11,000 ordered by local parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends in Wales.

NSPCC community fundraising manager for the Vale, Jo Leonard said: "This year's Letter from Santa campaign has already raised an amazing amount of money for our services and helplines, which includes our ChildLine service for children and young people. But our elves still have more magical letters they can send to local children so please get your orders in before December 18.

"By making a donation when arranging for a child or newborn baby to receive a personalised letter from Santa, people will be helping to make sure ChildLine volunteers are there to support young people whenever they need us – including over the Christmas period."

Zumba in aid of Ty Hafan

ABOVE:
Hayley Mason and Tracy Jones, Ty Hafan family support team members.

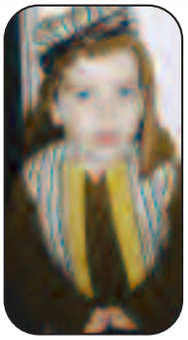
Ty Hafan staff members Hayley Mason and Tracy Jones are taking part in a Ty Hafan Zumba event on January 15 at Sport Wales in Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.

Hosted by Curves, there will be two sessions each lasting for two hours at which participants will learn eight new dances in the first hour and then perform them in the second.

People can choose to take part in one or both sessions.

Registration opens at 10am with refreshments served after each session.

Registration is now live online at www.tyhafan.org/zumba or call 029 2067 2060 to reserve a place.



Kiddie Winkles wow parents in concert

KIDDIEWINKLES Playgroup performed their Nativity concert on December 8 when Crossway Methodist Church was packed with relatives, friends and church members.

After the concert mince pies and drinks were served in the hall.

Today, December 15, at 11am, there is a Christingle service in Crossway Methodist Church, with Rev Peter Taylor conducting.

Tomorrow, the group has been invited to Tesco on Port Road, Barry to sing carols at the front of the store, to help raise funds for Alzheimers charity and will be in Christmas fancy dress between 10.30am and 11am.

COLD OUTSIDE? STAY WARM INSIDE!

Age Concern's guide to staying warm this winter

THE cold weather is well and truly with us now, and Age Concern has issued some practical advice on staying warm and healthy through the worst of the winter.

TO MAKE YOURSELF WARMER:

• Wear several thin layers, rather than one thick layer. This is because they trap warm air close to the body.

• Go for clothes made from wool, cotton or fleecy fabrics, if possible.

• Draw your curtains, as soon as it gets dark to stop the heat escaping and the draughts coming in.

• Keep any windows and internal doors closed when it's cold – this will keep heat inside, where you most need it.

• A lot of heat is lost through the head and neck, so if you're chilly indoors, try wearing a hat and scarf.

• Your body keeps warm by burning food you've eaten, so make sure you have regular hot meals that contain carbs, such as potatoes, pasta, bread and rice.

Try porridge with hot milk for breakfast and soups and stews for lunch and dinner.

• If you're sitting down, a shawl or blanket will provide extra warmth.

You should also try to keep your feet up, because air is cooler at ground level.

• Wear warm clothes in bed.

When it's really cold, wear thermal underwear, bed socks and even a hat.

'Show them that you care this Christmas' – urges local company

FOR many people, Christmas is a time for family and friends – but according to the charity, Friends of the Elderly, around 500,000 older people in the UK spend Christmas Day alone.

Care at home provider Bluebird Care, which supports disabled and elderly customers throughout Cardiff and the Vale, believes that much more could be done to help the more vulnerable people in our community. While some rely on 24 hour live-in care, others simply need a 15 minute visit each day, help with shopping or cooking, or just to know that a carer is on-hand.

"There's no question that, for some elderly people, life is lonely," said Huw Owen, managing director of Bluebird Care.

"Of course this feeling will be accentuated at this time of year and we should all help ensure that older people around us are safe, well, and in good spirits."

The Friends of the Elderly survey revealed that one in four people would not be including elderly relatives, neighbours or community members in their seasonal celebrations and activities.

"It really doesn't take much," said Owen. "Sometimes a friendly phonecall or popping in for a chat can be enough.

"That's actually one of a range of services we offer at Bluebird Care and we know this sort of regular contact with our carers makes all the difference."

The knock-on effects of isolation can have a profound effect: "Loneliness lowers people's self-worth, it can make them depressed and affects health and diet," said Owen. "Bluebird Care will be working around the clock over the festive period to make sure that our customers have a happy Christmas.

"There are around a million older people living alone in the UK, and I urge everyone to do their bit for their elderly relatives and neighbours, particularly at this time of year," he added.

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PETERSTON PANTO AND NATIVITY PLAYS DELIGHT MUMS AND DADS

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY Primary School presented two Christmas shows in one on December 6,7 and 8.

The nursery and reception pupils performed a traditional Nativity while the seniors acted our the pantomine *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

The school hall was packed for all shows, while headteacher, Tara Lloyd, underlined the hard work of both pupils and staff which ensured highly successful and enjoyable productions.

GEM photographer IAN DIXON was there to capture the colourful scenes as the pupils prepared to go on stage.

LOCAL PUPILS JOIN IN CONCERT

THE St Nicholas day Christmas concert at Ewenny priory church, was again hosted by Vale AM, Jane Hutt, who welcomed pupils from Llangewydd Junior School Bridgend and Holton Junior School, Barry.She commented: "The concert at Ewenny Priory, as part of the Ewenny Arts Festival, was a wonderful success."

VALE YOUTH FORUM HANDED AWARDS BY THE VALE MAYOR

THE Vale Youth Forum recently held their AGM when young people from all over the area received commitment award certificates.

Following their meeting, the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun John Clifford, hosted a reception to congratulate them on their awards.

The Vale Youth Forum has over 30 members, elected by their peers to represent their views and concerns.

Contact Helena Jones on 02920 701254 or email valeyouthforum@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

VALE SHOW SOCIETY CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL YEAR AT PRIZEGIVING

Gwyn Anthony of Haregrove Farm, Laleston.

The Vale Show chairman, Robert Llewellyn of Great House farm, Pyle.

Paul Llewellyn of New Beaupre Farm, St Hilary.

Lyndon Joseph of Mount Pleasant Farm, Stormy Down.

Tony Thomas of Pancross Farm.

David James of The Grange, Wick.

Photographs by **HEATHER MARCH**

AN excellent evening was had by all in St Mary's Hotel and Country Club recently when the Vale of Glamorgan Show held its annual dinner and field class prizegiving.

Following the dinner, Robert Llewellyn of Great House Farm, Penllyn, the chairman of the society announced the prize winners for 2011 with the society's president, Coun Jeffrey James, awarding the cups.

Prizewinners included:

- T D Llewellyn & Son, St Hilary – best clamp of silage.
- T W Jarvis & Son, Gelli Gill, Llansannor – best bale of silage.
- Lyndon Joseph, Mount Pleasant Farm, Stormy Down – long term grass ley.
- G Anthony & Son, Haregrove Farm, Laleston – short term grass ley.
- G Morgan & Son, Village House, Marcross _ best field of winter barley.
- W James & Son, the Grange, Wick – best field of winter oats.
- V J Thomas & Son, Pancross Farm, Llancarfan – best field of winter wheat.
- R D Edwards & Son, Pwllywrach Farm, Colwinston – best field of spring barley.
- R & L Anthony, Tythegston Farm, Bridgend – best winter oilseed crop.
- AR & HC Thomas, Sealand Farm, Wick – best field of beans.
- R & L Anthony, Tythegston Farm, Bridgend – best field of maize.
- R & L Anthony, Tythegston Farm, Bridgend – best clamp of maize.
- Robert Thomas, Ruthin Farm, St Mary Hill – best acre of potatoes.
- G Anthony & Son, Haregrove Farm, Laleston -– best group of eight in calf heifers.

The Cup for the winner of the most points in the combinable crop section was won by David James of The Grange, Wick and the Victor Ludorum Trophy for the highest number of points in the agricultural section on day 2011 was won by M A Webber and K Rickard, Castle Farm, Bisht, Newport.

The president, Coun Jeffrey James, said he was thoroughly enjoying his time in office. He was amazed to see how much actually happens on the field during show day. For example, the dog show is one of the largest in Wales.

He congratulated the society on a successful 2011 show and thanked them for all their hard work.

The society is looking forward to hosting the 2012 show on August 22 at Fonmon Castle. It has announced that the Devil's Horsemen will be the main ring attraction, with a medieval jousting display, featuring amazing horsemanship skills.

They supply horses and stuntmen for many of the films now being made in Britain.

For further information, log onto www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk or telephone 01446 710099.

Christopher Edwards of Pwllywrach Farm, Colwinston, receives his trophy from Coun Jeff James.

Mrs Lynwen Anthony of Tythegston Farm, Bridgend.

Peter Jarvis, Gelli Goll Farm, Llansannor.

Local trio take to the big stage

LEFT: Oliver Bartlett, Lucy Miles and Rebekah West will be on stage in Oliver!

Photo by TIM DICKESON

THREE local youngsters are to appear in Cameron Mackintosh's new production, of Lionel Bart's smash hit musical *Oliver!* at Wales Millennium Centre, which runs until January 21.

Oliver Bartlett (12) and Lucy Miles, nine, both from Barry, appears in the show alongside Rebekah West (11) from Dinas Powys.

The show stars Neil Morrissey, of *Men Behaving Badly* and *Waterloo Road* fame as Fagin, and Samantha Barks as Nancy.

Samantha was a finalist in the BBC talent show *I'd Do Anything* and made her West End debut as Eponine in *Les Misérables* last year.

Oliver, Lucy and Rebekah were chosen along with another 47 youngsters in auditions last summer.

NEWS ROUND-UP FROM YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG

Rugby honour for brothers

YOUNG Einan and Tiernan Scott from year-13 were selected to play at Llandovery College for the Welsh Academicals against both Christ College and Llandovery College.

The Welsh Academicals are a representative team selected from educational institutions in Wales. They are well known and respected within the rugby community.

In two very entertaining matches Einan and Tiernan made significant contribution to two well-earned victories. They were a credit to the school and the PE department. Well done boys!

Gymnastic success

CONGRATULATIONS to year-7, 8 and 9 pupils on their successes in the Welsh Gymnastics competition, especially to the year-7 boys' team, who are now Welsh champions.

They are Joseff Williams, Andrew Lewis, Rhys Davies, Gethin Evans, Jac Marshall and Saul Connelly.

The year-7 girls team came fourth in Wales and both years-8 and 9 boys and girls team came third in Cardiff and the Vale.

Llangrannog

LAST week, year-7 pupils had a thoroughly enjoyable week at Gwersyll yr Urdd Llangrannog.

Languages transition day

RECENTLY, year-6 pupils from all five of our feeder schools came to Ysgol Bro Morgannwg for a languages transition day.

They started the day with croissants and juiced served by the sixth formers before going on to French parachute games in the hall, making Christmas cards in the art department and many other taster activities in Spanish, German and French.

New school football kit

PETER Griffiths came to present a new year-8 football kit to the PE department this week.

PG10 has sponsored Ysgol Bro Morgannwg as part of the Kick Back Scheme. The Kick Back Scheme supports schools and communities, encouraging children to get active and to take part in sports, in particular football.

For more information go to www.pg10coaching.co.uk

The Welsh Gymnastics competition entrants.

Year-7 pupils at Llangrannog

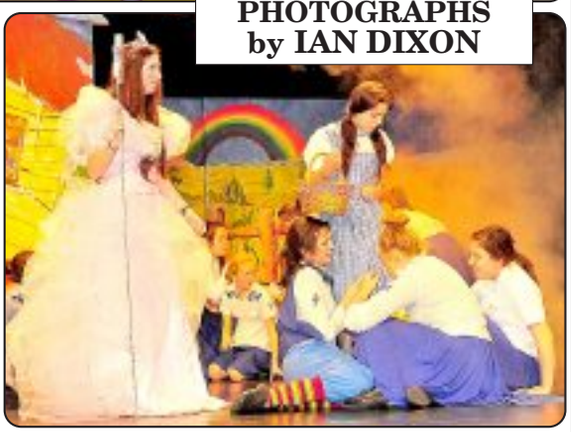
The new football kit

Bryn Hafren students put on a 'Wizard' show

THE drama department at Bryn Hafren School chose an old favourite for its school musical this year, ofering audiences the story of *The Wizard of Oz*.

The show, with much-loved songs such as 'Over The Rainbow', and 'If I Only Had a Brain' never disappoints, and there were strong performances in the lead roles from Lauren Pearce (Dorothy), Zoe Jenkins (Scarecrow), Sharifa Abdulla (Tin Man) and Andrew Emery (The Lion).

PHOTOGRAPHS by IAN DIXON



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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2008/01533/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Mixed use redevelopment including commercial leisure, retail and residential
Location:/Lleoliad: Barry Island Pleasure Park, Barry Island
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Affecting the Barry (Garden Suburb)

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01183/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing detached double garage and construct a new three bedroom detached (two storey) dwelling
Location:/Lleoliad: Belgrave House, Factory Road, Llanblethian
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Affecting the Llanblethian Conservation Area

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01093/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Replace wooden sash windows with UPVC sash windows in front of house
Location:/Lleoliad: 102, Stanwell Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01184/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition detached double garage
Location:/Lleoliad: Belgrave House, Factory Road, Llanblethian
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Llanblethian

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01178/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion and extension of existing derelict fire and water damaged building to create the boutique four star Marine Hotel, with 55 bedrooms, a Cafeteria and Wine Bar. To include the retention of the building's northern and western facades, reconstruction of the roof and chimneys to the original design, construction of side and rear extensions and creation of car parking and landscaped external areas
Location:/Lleoliad: Marine Buildings, Penarth Marina, Penarth
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2008/01533/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Mixed use redevelopment including commercial leisure, retail and residential
Location:/Lleoliad: Barry Island Pleasure Park, Barry Island

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2011/01177/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion and extension of existing derelict fire and water damaged building to create a hotel, with 55 bedrooms, a Cafeteria and Wine Bar. To include the retention of the building's northern and western facades, reconstruction of the roof and chimneys to the original design, construction of side and rear extensions and creation of car parking and landscaped external areas
Location:/Lleoliad: Marine Buildings, Penarth Marina, Penarth

Departure from Development Plan/Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2008/01533/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Mixed use redevelopment including commercial leisure, retail and residential
Location:/Lleoliad: Barry Island Pleasure Park, Barry Island

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Dated / Dyddiedig: 15th December, 2011

Rob Thomas
Head of Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Cross Inn offers 'masterchef' style cooking at affordable prices

DINING REVIEW by **PHILIP IRWIN**

ABOVE and BELOW: Cross Inn food has a strong visual impact!

IT is two years since the father and son team of Arthur and Liam O'Leary took over the Cross Inn, just outside Cowbridge, and in that time they have put their own stamp on the pub – in particular by introducing a new menu, and by redesigning the dining room.

The result is a cosy room, with an open fire in the hearth, that sums up the pleasures of dining out in a country pub.

The next step for the pair was making that difficult decision for any eating establishment – just where to place yourself in the market.

Do you offer a high- end gourmet experience at prices to match, or embrace the wholesome, tasty and good value philosophy?

You could, of course, try and combine the two and, on the evidence of our meal, that is what the Cross Inn has managed.

In fact, when our main courses were presented, my guest took out her iPhone to send a picture to friends to make them jealous!

She had ordered pan-fried pheasant breasts with grilled bacon, braised cabbage and saute potatoes, and the plate looked spectacular, with each component arranged masterchef style – and the flavours did not disappoint either.

Both the cabbage and the saute potatoes had their own sauces to add to the dish, as did the pheasant and bacon, which was the centrepiece.

So, a plate of food with a definite wow factor – made all the more special by the price, which was just £9.95!

All of the above also applied to my main course of oven-roasted duck breast, mash potato, roasted vegetables and a port sauce, at £10.95, with the ingredients arranged artfully around the plate, and the vegetables in a 'tower' topped off by the spinach.

It was another main course with real visual appeal, and once again the flavours brought out the best in the ingredients.

I'm not a great fan of spinach but this was excellent. My only minor quibble would be that there was more mashed potato than I could manage!

I've jumped straight to the main courses, but the starters were also excellent. My guest chose the soup of the day – pea and ham – which was packed with both, and bursting with flavour.

I chose the homemade fish cake, which turned out to be very light and fluffy, made with plenty of salmon and hake, and came with a tartar sauce, again homemade, which set the dish off perfectly.

When it came to choosing a main course there were plenty of other options, and I was certainly tempted by the fish dishes; for instance the grilled brill fillets with a paprika dusting, mash potato and neapolitan sauce (£8.95), or the pan-seared halibut steak, roasted root vegetables and saute thyme masada of potato.

All the main courses mentioned so far were off the 'specials board' but the Cross Inn also has a series of regular main courses on the menu, including deep fried fish of the day, Glamorgan sausages and a 'pie of the day'.

On to the desserts, and these did not disappoint either. I chose a vanilla and lemon pannacotta, and had absolutely no complaints, as the taste of both ingredients came through strongly.

My companion, an afficionado of sticky toffee pudding, pronounced hers to be as good as she had tasted, with a rich sauce melting into the smooth ice cream that accompanied it.

The Vale has a fair number of good eating establishments, and Arthur and Liam have chosen to fight their corner with excellent food at prices that are more than a pleasant surprise.

The wine list has been selected to give plenty of choice, but also with a budget in mind, and plenty of bottles are in the £13 to £17 range, as well as a number slightly higher.

Our two three-course meals worked out at less than £20 per head, excluding wine, which has to be great value these days.

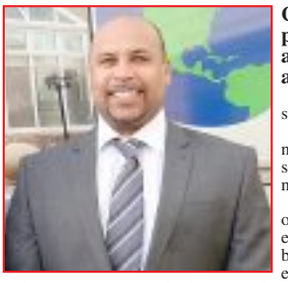
The Cross Inn also offers a two-course lunch (Monday to Friday) for just £8.95, a one course Sunday lunch for £7.95 (and a three-course for £12.45) and it is also still offering a choice of Christmas menus.

They also scored top marks for hygeine standards in the council's 'scores on the doors' rating system.

Contact the Cross Inn on 01446 772995.

Future Window Solutions offers commitment and great customer service

Craig Harewood



CRAIG and Dina Harewood of Future Window Solutions, which has provided home improvement and building services to commercial and residential clients for many years, believe that the company's attention to detail is one of its great strengths.

Craig explained: "We are a family run company and have grown from strength to strength with our commitment and the fact that good customer service is our priority.

"Future Window Solutions are members of Network Veka. It is an independent nationwide organisation set up to give our customers peace of mind that they have selected a highly respected and professional local company that has the backing of a national trade organisation.

"Veka constantly monitors our performance to ensure we maintain the high standard of workmanship that is not only required for our continued membership, but also to ensure all our work and products meet the required standards set by the Government's building regulations that covers energy performance that will help save on your energy bills."

Among the company's clients are Domestic Property, Ashgrove School Penarth, Mynydd Cynfig School Bridgend, Barclays Bank branches, Dwr Cymru, Youth Offenders' Centre, car showrooms, local estate agencies and Local Authorities.

Dina said: "We offer a wide range of products and services.

"All types of building work are 'project managed' from planning all the way through to completion.

"We supply and install high quality Veka PVC-u windows, doors, sash, bi-folds and other materials.

"We also specialise in conservatories, organgeries, and garage conversions. The products we supply are 'energy efficient' as standard.

"The company also provides a 'no job is too small' repair service."

Future Window Solutions takes pride in the fact that the majority of enquiries come via recommendation and believe its high standards is responsible for the work.

Craig added: "People should be assured that all tenders and enquiries will have our full co-operation and full attention at all times.

"Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information."

Future Window Solutions would like to wish all its customers a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the team.

Craig and Dina Harewood would also like to thank the staff and team for all their hard work this year.

The Future Window Solutions team is celebrating another successful year.

ALL THE FUN OF THE PETERSTON FAIR, AS SANTA MAKES GUEST APPEARANCE!

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY Church in Wales Primary School held its Christmas fair on Saturday, December 3 and GEM photographer Ian Dixon was on hand to capture all the excitement.

There was all the usual festive fun, including lots of stalls, turkey rolls and mulled wine, as well as a chance for children to see Father Christmas in his grotto.

Photographs by **IAN DIXON**

Wyn Calvin 'stars' at English Speaking Union

THE south Wales branch of the English Speaking Union recently enjoyed a festive evening at Howells' School, Llandaff, by permission of the principal, Mrs Sally Davis.

The school senior choir sang carols, joined lustily by the audience, and an elegant supper followed. Then there was a hilarious entertainment by Wyn Calvin who is a member of the branch.

Literary lunches and social events raise money to support a Welsh schools public speaking competition and backs projects as diverse as Bolivian Street Kids and a Shakespeare training course for teachers.

For information, contact chairman Derek Morgan on 01656 669129.

ABOVE: Branch members Roy Noble and Wyn Calvin enjoyed the evening with their wives.

Photo by HEATHER MARCH

Peter Pan will make a loving companion

THIS WEEK: PETER PAN is a two-year-old Dachshund cross, and is a bright little dog who enjoys a good run off lead with a friend.

He is quite a sensitive little chap, but is much more confident when he is with other dogs.

He is house-trained and fine when left for a few hours.

In the right home he will make a fun, affectionate and rewarding little companion.

If you are thinking of offering a home to a dog, please pop up to visit us – we have lots of different types and breeds of dogs, and would love to help you find your perfect furry friend.

• There is still time to let a lovely dog spend his first Christmas with you! Contact Bridgend Rehoming Centre on 01656 725219 if you can help.

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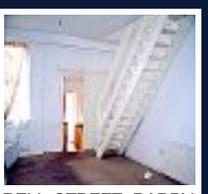
Vale of Glamorgan
CF63 4HN

GROVE ESTATES

NEW PRICE



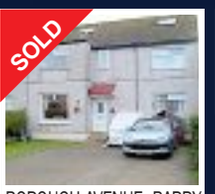
BELL STREET, BARRY
- 3 bedroom mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Low maintenance rear garden
- Ideal as investment or 1st time purchase
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

£87,500

HOLLAND WAY, BARRY
- 3 bedroom mid terrace property in popular location
- Gas central heating & Double glazed
- Front and rear gardens
- Viewing highly recommended
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£99,950

SOLD



BOROUGH AVENUE, BARRY
- Well presented 5 bedroom semi-detached property
- Driveway to front for approx 2-3 cars
- Two reception rooms
- Double glazed & gas central heating
- Enclosed rear garden
- Offered freehold with no chain

£179,950

JEWEL STREET, BARRY
- 3 bedroom bay fronted mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Good sized rear garden
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

£125,000

PARK AVENUE, BARRY
- Spacious 3 bedroom bay fronted mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- 2 reception rooms
- Far reaching views over Bristol Channel
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

£174,950

BUTTRILLS ROAD, BARRY
- A generously sized 2 double bedroom ground floor flat
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Communal front & rear gardens
- Viewing highly recommended
- No ongoing chain

£90,000

KINGSLAND CRESCENT, BARRY
- Rarely available 5 double bedroom semi-detached in central location
- Many restored period features
- Gas central heating & partial timber double glazing
- Driveway
- Views over the Bristol channel to the rear

£199,950

BRYN AWEL, BARRY
- 4 bedroom detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Detached garage & driveway
- Spacious gardens
- Views across Bristol Channel

£244,950

LLAN FARM, BARRY
- An extended 5 bedroom detached property dating back to approx 1700's
- Landscaped front & rear gardens set on approx 1/3 of an acre
- Set in quiet semi-rural location
- Off road parking with double garage
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Offered freehold

£299,000

NEW PRICE

WINSTON ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bedroom semi detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Driveway to front
- Front & rear gardens
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£115,000

SSTC

GREENLAWNS, BARRY
- Immaculately presented 3 bedroom semi detached property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Viewing highly recommended
- Good size front & rear gardens

£129,950

MOREL STREET, BARRY
- A well presented 3 bedroom property in a popular location of Barry
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Some original features remain
- Viewing highly recommended

£105,000

RENTALS

Llewellyn Street, Barry
3 Bedroom property in popular location. GCH. DG. Unfurnished **£550 pcm**

Lee Road, Barry
3 Bedroom property in popular location. GCH. DG. Unfurnished **£550 pcm**

Wilfred Street, Barry
2 Bedroom property in popular location. GCH. DG. Unfurnished **£525 pcm**

Glenbrook Drive, Barry
2 Bedroom end link property. GCH. Off road parking. Unfurnished **£500 pcm**

Gladstone Road, Barry
2 Bedroom 1st floor flat in popular location. GCH. DG. Unfurnished **£525 pcm**

College Road, Barry
3 Bedroom Semi-detached in popular location. GCH. DG. Unfurnished **£550 pcm**

College Road, Barry
3 Bedroom terrace property in popular location. GCH. Mostly DG. Unfurnished **£600 pcm**

Davnic Road, Barry
2 Bedroom 1st floor flat. GCH, DG, off road parking. Unfurnished **£425 pcm**

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MAES Y GWENYN, RHOOSE POINT
Constructed by David Wilson. Four double bedrooms, master with ensuite and dressing room, living, dining room, conservatory, 2011 replacement kitchen, breakfast room, utility. Well presented throughout. Enclosed laid to lawn garden. Integral garage, cul de sac position.
£280,000

MAES Y GWENYN, RHOOSE POINT
Well presented. Four double bedrooms, ensuite and dressing room, living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast, private, enclosed garden, double garage. No chain.
£274,950

MAES Y GWENYN, RHOOSE POINT
Detached, four double bedrooms, master ensuite. Kitchen with integrated appliances. Well presented throughout. Enclosed rear garden. Integral garage.
£244,950

ST JOHN'S PLACE, RHOOSE
Two/three bedrooms, detached bungalow, living room, bedroom with ensuite shower, conservatory, enclosed garden, driveway/garage. Well presented throughout.
£224,950

BRYN Y GLOYN, RHOOSE
Well presented throughout. Four bedroomed, detached modern. Views over conservation and sea. Living/dining, kitchen/breakfast, utility, garage/driveway. No chain.
£239,950

FONMON ROAD, RHOOSE
Detached dorma bungalow. Four bedrooms, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, enclosed larger than average garden, garage and driveway with ample parking. Well presented throughout. Consider exchange for 2 bed bungalow in the Vale area.
£279,950

THE NURSERIES, RHOOSE
Detached bungalow, private access, indoor heated pool, three bedrooms, cctv monitoring, ensuite, kitchen, utility room. Suitable for wheelchair use.
£399,950

CLOS YR WYLAN,BARRY ISLAND
Three storey detached. Spacious living accommodation. Five bedrooms, kitchen leading to dining room. Three ensuites and family bathroom. Fabulous sea views over beach. South facing level garden. Driveway/garage. Well presented.
£289,950

CLOS YR WYLAN,BARRY ISLAND
Modern detached. Corner position, five bedrooms, three bathrooms, far reaching sea views. Double garage. Spacious living.
£329,950

GWENNOL Y MOR, BARRY
Three bedrooms, modern semi-detached. Living room/dining room, three storey, driveway/garage. No chain. Option of furniture to remain. Enclosed rear garden.
£184,950

ROMILLY AVENUE, BARRY
Three double bedrooms, semi detached, two spacious rec rooms, original flooring, level, laid to lawn garden, brick-built sheds. Minutes walk to park and beaches. Viewing recommended.
£229,950

ROMILLY ROAD, BARRY
Five bedrooms, traditional, spacious, versatile living room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen. Far reaching sea views. Ensuite to master bedroom. Enclosed garden/garage. Minutes walk to train, numerous beaches.
£199,995

CAER FFYNNON, BARRY
Four bedrooms, modern detached. Shower/wc cloakroom, living room and dining room, fitted kitchen - integrated appliances. Far reaching sea views. Raised decked sun terrace. Garage/ driveway.
£254,950

HEOL Y GAER, THE KNAP, BARRY
Dorma bungalow, show home presented. Sea views from 1st floor. Ground floor: two bedrooms, living room, dining room, 2011 fitted kitchen, family bathroom.To the 1st floor: Master bedroom and bathroom. Detached garage/driveway.
£349,950

ROMILLY PARK ROAD, BARRY
Four bedrooms, spacious detached, Romilly Park location. Sea views from front elevation, balcony, ensuite to master. Double garage and hobby room. Original features throughout. Viewing highly recommended.
£399,950

BRON Y MOR, BARRY
Imposing, detached. Built in 1950's. bay fronted, four bedrooms, lark gardens, the Knap and sea views. Livingroom, dining room, oak block flooring. Kitchen with integrated appliances, conservatory, utility room, integral garage/driveway. Enclosed, well established garden.
£429,950

GRAYTON COTTAGE, BARRY
Spacious dorma detached bungalow. Ground floor: Study (bedroom), living room, dining and sun lounge. Two bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast. First floor: Sitting room, dressing room, bathroom and master bedroom. Private garden and garage.
£374,950

THE MOORINGS, HIGHLIGHT PARK, BARRY
Semi detached dwelling, dorma bungalow, situated on a large plot. Three/four bedrooms, living room and conservatory. Sought after location. Ample room to extend (subject to usual planning consent) garage/driveway.
£329,950

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Jean will be greatly missed by all her loving family and friends. Funeral Service took place on Thursday 15th December. All enquiries to WA Brown & Son. 01446 792489.

PRITCHARD
Henry George (Harry)
Peacefully, at home in Raglan on 8th December, Harry aged 69 years (formerly of St Athan). Loving husband of Pat, very much loved dad of Steven and Samantha, daughter-in-law Susan, granddaughters Charlotte and Harriet, grandsons Morgan, Jack and James and brother to Colin.
Greatly missed by his loving family and friends resting at home until the service at 11.30am at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, 19th December 2011.
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Loving Mum x and Sister Linda x

Birthday Notices

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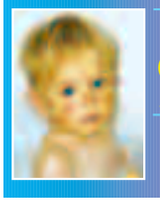

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for the 17th December
Lots of love from Mum, Dad and Ryan XXX
Enjoy the party!

Birth Notices

Congratulations
Aaron & Kirsty
~ on the birth of your beautiful daughter ~
Ava Mai
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Weighing 7lbs 15oz
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x x x

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Public Notice

NOTICE OF MAKING
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER
SECTION 53 OF THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL DEFINITIVE MAP
THE DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE FORMER COUNTY OF SOUTH GLAMORGAN RELEVANT DATE 14th SEPTEMBER 1954.
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011 (No.DMO/53/378)

The above order made on the 11th day of November 2011, if confirmed as made, will modify the definitive map and statement for the area by adding a footpath from Pontypridd Road to Millwood, Porthkerry Country Park.

A copy of the order and the order map may be seen free of charge at the address below between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at a price of £4.50.

Any representation or objection relating to the order must be sent in writing to the Director of Environmental and Economic Regeneration, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Docks Office, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than 28th January 2012 and applicants are requested to state the grounds on which it is made.

If no representations or objections are duly made to the order or to any part of it, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may, instead of submitting the order to the Welsh Assembly Government, itself confirm the order. If the order is submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government, any representations and objections, which have been duly made and not withdrawn, will be sent with the order.

Dated this 15th day of December 2011

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

First half surge wins it for Pyle

PYLE YOUTH 34 – 22 MAESTEG CELTIC

PYLE entertained Maesteg Celtic at Brynglas Fields in what was an enjoyable and hard fought Cup game.

Celtic had the first chance to put points on the board but put the kick wide. Pyle scored first after hooker David Thomas won a scrum against the head, allowing flanker Keiran Hooper to pick up and cut through the unsuspecting Celtic defence. Kyle O'Reilly added the conversion.

Pyle got their second try after being awarded a lineout just inside the Celtic half. A long throw to No 8 Owen Thomas surprised the defence and he used his power and strength to break a number of tackles.

He then produced a sublime one-handed offload to the supporting Xavier Manaseitava, who drew the last man before passing to the ever-present Kyle Clatworthy, O'Reilly again added the conversion.

Pyle maintained the pressure on the Celtic defence and when a penalty was awarded just inside the Celtic 22, it was quickly taken and passed through the hands for Owen Thomas to score out wide, this score concluded a pulsating first half.

Pyle were quickly on the scoreboard again in the second half with a quickly taken penalty by Hooper. The ball was moved quickly along the line, where prop Antonio Hamblin used his speed, strength and agility to burst through and neatly side-step the covering defender to score by the posts. O'Reilly slotted over the conversion.

Pyle looked to be easing to victory but the loss of Owen Thomas to a yellow card gave Celtic a chance to use the extra man. From the penalty, No.8 Jay Ronan drove through the Pyle team and offloaded for flanker Liam Thomas to crash over. Harris added the conversion.

Celtic used their man advantage to great effect and moved the ball quickly upfield where a scrum just inside the Pyle 22 gave Ieaun Davies the chance to pick up and dart through for a try.

Pyle retained the ball from the restart and edged into the Celtic 22, where they awarded a penalty in front of the posts, which O'Reilly slotted over.

The two teams tried to add to the score but both defences held out, until a kick and chase by Ieaun Davies resulted in Pyle full back Rhys Ansen having to take the ball over his own line. An infringement at the resulting five-metre scrum gave Davies the chance to tap and go and just about squirm over the line.

Pyle replied straight from the restart as Hooper gathered and drove at the Celtic defence. The ball was quickly recycled and some lovely hands by the backs allowed Ansen to score out wide.

With time running out, Ieaun Davis again chipped ahead, gathered and offloaded to Ronan to score out wide.

Antonio Hamblin was awarded the Pyle man of the match award for his tireless work in the scrums and for his powerful running, Kyle Clatworthy and Keiran Hooper were the other players of note.

Pyle's next game is against Porthcawl in the league on Saturday at Brynglas Fields.

HR

Huskies in search of vital win

by ELLIOT THOMAS

The Huskies' latest games proved to be a mixed bag of results.

The first team faced west Wales opposition in the form of 2010 league winners Swansea Storm at home, and an away game at Swansea University.

The Storm beat the Huskies in a tight game 84-65 where their American import scored 45 points.

The Huskies leading scorers were Lloyd Roberts with 20 and Ian Gibbons with 13.

The Huskies also experienced defeat against Swansea Uni who ran out 77-42 winners. The Huskies had no answer for their 6'6" Canadian who dominated the game and their cause was made even more difficult with the absence of leading scorer Lloyd Roberts.

Only Chris Gibbons scored double figures, leading the way with 10 points.

Commenting on both games, coach Trigg said: "We're really struggling in the height department this year and it showed in both our games – we just couldn't compete with their big players.

"We really missed Lloyd in our second game too, he's our main scorer and most of our offence goes through him."

The second team fared slightly better with a home loss to Cardiff Capitals 101-82 and a home win against Ely Titans 91-74, Jack Dyer scoring 35 and 46 points respectively.

Coach Cooper was pleased with the way his team is progressing: "The way our boys are gelling is really encouraging as this is our first season together and they're so young. It's very encouraging for the future."

Finally, the club's under 14 side won their first ever game, 54-4 against the Cardiff Capitals.

Coaches Gibbons and Whitlow started this team in the summer and have seen them improve in leaps and bounds. They have their next games on Sunday, December 18 at Holm View.

The club is still actively recruiting from ages 12 above. For further information, please contact Alun Rees on 029 20531531, go to www.barryhuskies.net or see our Facebook page Barry Huskies Basketball Club.

Under-9s get a chance to gauge their progress

BRIDGEND Athletic under-9s visited Cowbridge in an eagerly anticipated local derby.

'The Ath' have a fine tradition of producing young players and a fixture against them is always an occasion to be savoured.

The first game can best be described as nip and tuck throughout. Bridgend Athletic were the bigger group but Cowbridge's hugely-improved defence kept them out – as indeed did the Athletic defence when Cowbridge were in possession.

It was difficult to see where any break through was going to be made; but as a result of possession being lost and then quickly recovered, Robbie Hawkins made it through two defenders to score a try Cowbridge.

Further excellent defence, with Jake Williams to the fore, prevented any response before half-time.

Early in the second half, a dropped pass gave away possession and a couple of plays later a long-range try was scored by the Athletic.

The Cowbridge team gathered themselves again and kept possession for a lengthy period eventually scoring what turned out to be the winning try through Rhys Williams, who played extremely well throughout.

Strong tackling meant that Cowbridge held on for what was just about a deserved win.

Everyone contributed, although a special mention should go to David Harris who, in defensive situations, made hard yards and then allowed the rest of the team to start passing movements in more favourable field positions.

GAME TWO

There were some late arrivals for the second game where the team started by defending well. They were in a good attacking position when Bridgend Athletic broke away and scored their first try.

An excellent break by Tom Johnson was followed by the ball being lost, and a second long-range try left Bridgend Athletic two ahead at half time.

In the second half, periods of controlled play where Cowbridge kept the ball were punctuated by the ball being lost and tackles being missed – something that was capitalised upon by Bridgend Athletic's number 15, who scored three long-range tries.

The final score did not reflect how the Cowbridge boys played generally. The passing game, though mistakes will happen, must be encouraged.

There were signs of the progress that the boys have made over the last number of weeks.

Both the break in the first half by Tom Johnson and a couple in the second half by Oliver Jarmain could have led to tries, and a number of players, Matthew and James Gilvear notably, worked very hard, making huge defensive efforts.

Squad: Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Ioan Davies, Jay Downes, Gruff Ford, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Elis Greenwood, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarmain, Tom Johnson, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Joe Marshman, Tom Pugh, Jack Reilly, Harry Whittaker, Dewi Williams, Jake Williams and Rhys Williams.

JS

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Success for TKD club

RECENTLY, the TAGB Tae Kwon Do British Championships took place in Telford International Centre.

Students from Steve Tottle's Tae Kwon Do club competed and brought home an impressive collection of trophies.

The results were as follows: Bethany Burt – bronze in junior black belt lightweight; Jessica Burt – silver in junior red belt peewee; Nathan Jones – gold in junior blue belt middleweight; Ben Groves – gold in men's blue belt heavyweight; Liz Gordon – gold in ladies' black belt middleweight; Emma Nelson – bronze in ladies' black belt heavyweight; Josh Hulse – silver in men's black belt welterweight.

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WENVOE CASTLE GOLF CLUB HOLDS A SUCCESSFUL PRESENTATION NIGHT

ABOVE:
Past lady captain Wendy Motton presents the H Broadbent Trophy to Nicola Sims and Lloyd Evans

Lady captain Tina Church presents the M Moss Memorial Shield Debbie Williams

Lady vice-captain Lynda Campbell presents the Thompson Salver to Sheila Davies

The lady captain presenting the Ladies Championship Trophy to Pat Jarvis

Club professional Jason Harris with Kevin Knowles, winner of the Dai David Putter

Tony Cumming presents the Robert Rickards Trophy to Tim Hanson

Club captain Tony Cumming presents the Club Championship Trophy to Lloyd Evans

Past captain Chris Tatt presents the 75th Anniversary Cup to Geoff May and Jeff Hull

Club president Brian Coffin presents the Dr & Mrs AM Jones Trophy to Delyth Thomas and Bobby Woodruff.

Club vice-captain Norman Robbins presents the Autumn Tankards to Gary Tutssell and Dean Rowlands

PRESENTATION night is always a special occasion at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club, with the winners of the various club competitions receiving their well-earned trophies.

This year had the extra touch of being the 75th anniversary of the club, formed in 1936. The club reflected on a successful year, particularly the 'Festival of Golf' in July to celebrate the occasion.

Club champion Lloyd Evans was delighted to receive his trophy from captain Tony Cumming and gave praise to the runner-up, Tim Hanson, for a great game played in an excellent spirit.

Lloyd also took the opportunity to thank the head greenkeeper and the green staff for presenting the course in superb condition, not only on the day but throughout the year.

Lady champion Pat Jarvis was away on holiday and received her well earned trophy at a special meeting of the ladies section. In her absence, the runner-up, Sheila Morrow, took the opportunity to congratulate Pat as a deserved winner on the day, and again the match was played in a very sporting manner.

In addition to the above, a further 36 trophies were presented for men's, ladies and mixed competitions, and each winner will enjoy seeing their names engraved on the honours boards throughout the club house.

Wenvoe Castle Golf Club certainly has a lot to offer the competitive golfer of all standards and new members are very welcome. There is plenty of opportunity to play social golf, and off the course a busy programme is full of events to overcome the disappointment of wayward drives and missed putts.

For more information, contact the club secretary Nicola Sims on 02920 594371.

Wenvoe Castle Golf Club – Presentation Night:

Club champion, Lloyd Evans; Runner-up, Tim Hanson; Lady champion, Pat Jarvis; runner-up, Sheila Morrow.

Ladies competitions:

Blod Lewis Cup, N Sims; M Moss Memorial Shield, D Williams; Thompson Salver, Mrs S Davies; Committee Cup, S Macpherson; Seniors Cup, C Doody; White Cup Foursomes, S Morrow and D Thomas; Mary Fellows Bowl, L Bird; Bronze Division champion, W Motton; Handicap Oscar, B Beedham; Coronation Cup, B Beedham; Laurie Jones Shield, K Ball and L Marples.

Gentlemen's competitions:

Committee Cup, R Brana and Mr W Harrington; LG Fellows Tankard, R Ivory; Palmer Cup, G Tutssell; Autumn Tankards, G Tutssell and D Rowlands; Dai David Putter, K Knowles; Viv Jones Tankard, P Walker; Celnik Cup, T Hanson; Captain's Shield, R Ivory; Coronation Cup, D Milton; 50th Year Cup, R Campbell and C T Jones; Renwick Seniors Trophy, M Brown; Robert Rickards Cup, T Hanson; H Regan Foursomes, M Gill and I Pearcey; Hales Cup, L Evans; Dragon Trophy, D Jefferies. Presidents Bowl, Mr R Ivory; 75th Anniversary Cup, G May and J Hull.

Mixed competitions:

Vaughan Thompson, S Dayananda and Dr D Dayananda; Morgan Williams Bowl, L Hudd and J Hudd; Cupid Cup, Mr and Mrs G Macpherson; Ashton Trophy, Mrs L Hudd and J Hudd;Whiteflower Cup, Mrs H Kinsey and C Kinsey; H Broadbent Trophy, Miss N Sims and L Evans; Bowen Greenwood, Miss N Sims and L Evans; Dr and Mrs A M Jones, Miss D Thomas and R Woodruff.

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Sully Sports run riot against Old Tylerians

ON a cold and damp Saturday, Sully Sports entertained Old Tylerians RFC in their last league match of 2011.

With the Seconds having no fixture, it gave the coaches a headache in selection, with more than40 players to select from.

Sports kicked off, the ball was caught from kick off by Sully's Ben Such, and a drive right up the middle saw Nathan Szuchnik going over for the first of many tries, converted by Chris Cummings.

Sports gathered from the kick off and started to inter link between forwards and backs, and things that the guys worked on in training after last week's game saw them produce some eye–catching rugby.

Hard work and strong running saw Sports get on top of the game and further tries from Nathan Taylor, Jason Evans and Matthew George ensured that Sports finished the half strongly, but not to be out done in the middle of the romp, Old Tylerians, managed a score of their own.

It was good to see the running rugby mixed with the hard contact from all players. Indeed a penalty try was awarded as well, leaving the half time score 31-5.

The second half started and Sports kept up the good work with some excellent running rugby. Jason Evans must have thought the Gods had turned against him, as every time he set off up the pitch, the referee would blow up for something.

Changes were made but the tempo stayed the same, showing the excellent strength in depth the club has.

Tries came from Jon Blake, Chris Cummings, Stuart Morgan getting a brace, John Thomas and Wayne Jones, conversions by Chris Cummings. The final score was 73-5.

Team: Jody Velda, Jamie Griffith, Tom Sloman, Jon Blake, Michael Angove (captain), Anthony Wakefield, Jason Evans, John Thomas, Ben Such, Adam Wheeler, Ross Eason, Matthew George, John Dimond, Chris Cummings, Grantley Harris, Stewart Morgan, Nathan Szuchnik, Mike Harkin, Wayne Jones, Nathan Taylor.

Training takes place Monday and Wednesday Nights at Sully Sports ground, 6:30pm. All are welcome.

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Thursday 29th December	SALES/SERVICE	8.30am - 5.00pm
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As the name suggests, it is bigger than a standard Scenic and can, therefore, seat seven adults – compared to just five – making it ideal for chauffeurs, taxi drivers and those with large families.

When the third row of seats is in position, it takes up almost the entire boot. However, it's easy to remove by simply pulling the red strap at the back of each seat to push them down, creating a reasonable amount of room.

It has always puzzled me as to how passengers sitting in the third row access their front–facing seats without being contortionists, but in the Renault it's just a matter of tipping the outer middle seat forward so that rear passengers can clamber in.

The Grand Scenic is comfortable, spacious and well finished. Cubbyholes and bottle holders abound. The clever use of space allows us to transport wood for the fire, a full size Christmas tree and various presents for my baby daughter Harriett's first Christmas, with plenty of room to spare. And when the sun comes out, we enjoy opening the twin sunroofs.

In the winter months my 50–mile daily commute is often delayed by road works, accidents and bad weather, and the Scenic copes well under this pressure.

Its frugal 1.5dci engine is surprisingly nippy when the opportunity arises. However, when crawling through endless traffic jams, the six–speed automatic gearbox doesn't seem to like first or second, proving much happier in the other gears.

It took a little while to familiarise myself with the placement of the speedometer, which sits nearer the centre of the dash and is all digital, which can be difficult to navigate at night.

The Grand Scenic does feel a bit cumbersome to drive and its size makes it awkward to reverse, although there are sensors to alert the driver to unseen obstacles. But it handles motorway driving well and the diesel engine is hardly audible.

Parkers, the car experts, write: *"Renault claims to have invented the compact people carrier with the Scenic in 1996 and its third generation model remains among the best of its type." The publication goes on to say that compared to the standard Scenic "the used market prefers the versatility offered by the Grand Scenic and its seven-seat layout".*

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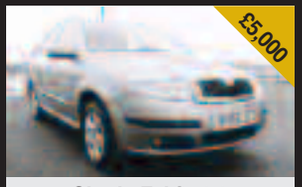
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GEM sport

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Netballers come close to glory in tournament

YEAR-7

THE year-7B tournament took place at the University Sports Hall at Tal-Y-Bont, Cardiff, where 17 teams from across Cardiff and the Vale played for the county title.

In the pool, Cowbridge played Glantaf first, losing 1-4, then a better game against St Teilo's, drawing 2-2.

In the last game against Glyn Derw, they played really well, gaining confidence all the time, for a final score of 4-0, to finish runners-up in the pool.

In the play-off, Cowbridge first played St Richard Gwyn, losing a close match 3-2, and then Glantaf's B team, winning 4-1.

The final game was against Glantaf A team, losing 3-1.

This placed Cowbridge sixth out of 17 teams. Well done to all the girls who played, especially Sophie Oddy, who injured a finger early on but after strapping, played on.

Player of the tournament: Sophie Oddy

YEAR-10

COWBRIDGE played host to the year-10 County first round tournament and played last year's county winners Corpus Christi, who were very strong and came out on top 13-3. Corpus Christi then played Bro Morgannwg, and beat them by 9-2. Cowbridge played Bro Morgannwg, winning a close match 7-5.

A special mention to Annabel Curle who was very strong in the centre, intercepting and marking well. Jo Wilkins was excellent at GA with some very good shooting.

Player of the match: Jo Wilkins.

Basketball

LLANSANNOR, St David's and Y Bont Faen competed in the Cowbridge basketball transition league.

Llansannor entered three teams, St David's four and Y Bont Faen one.

They played in two pool matches first, and then the final matches saw the first place teams play each other, second play each other and so on.

St David's D team played St David's C team for seventh and eighth place, with St David's D team winning.

St David's B team played Llansannor B team for fifth and sixth place with St David's B team winning.

Y Bont Faen and Llansannor C Team came joint third after a goal-less match.

St David's A team then played Llansannor A team who came first, beating St David's 8-0.

Well done to all who took part. The next transition event will be dance.

COWBRIDGE RFC TRAVEL TO HIRWAUN FOR 'VITAL' GAME

COWBRIDGE RFC are back in action this weekend with an away fixture at Hirwaun , kick off at 2:30 pm.

Cowbridge have lost two out of the last three games and so a win is absolutely vital to keep up the challenge on the leaders.

Hirwaun won their last game and so this will be a real battle .

A club spokesman told The GEM: "We need to end the year on a high and then prepare for the arrival of the division leaders Bryncethin on January 7.

"With students home now for Christmas we would like please all players to train and be available for the weekend.

"With facilitIes at a well equipped gym at Llandow on Tuesdays and the excellent all weather pitch at the school on Thursdays, the days of jogging around the pitch for an hour up to your ankles in mud is a thing of the past..

"So if you fancy getting in involved we will be delighted to welcome you.

"We again thank The GEM for its coverage this year, and wish all the readers a very happy Christmas and New Year.

"Finally, w e want to say 'thank you Shane' for all the great memories of the last 10 years!"

RV/RK

Tickets are still available for 'The Best of British' New Year's Eve do at the club. Tickets £25, contact Nick Jones on 07790 887 680.

Revenge is sweet for the under-14s as they battle Rumney and the mud!

THE Cowbridge under-14s team travelled to Rumney on a good run of form looking to avenge a home loss against the current district champions earlier in the season.

The playing surface in Cardiff was wet and boggy and the bulk of the game was contested by the forwards at close quarters.

Ben Jones opened the scoring with a superb try, peeling off a line-out to break through the home defence and sprint 50 metres. Eugene Richards converted.

The Cowbridge backs were not able to run their usual elegant lines against a strong Rumney defence, but a quick movement along the backs allowed Rian Thomas to power over in the corner to maintain his impressive scoring record this season. Frazz McGhan added to the scoring with a characteristic bullocking try to make the score 19–0 to Cowbridge, and this was followed by a second try for Rian Thomas for a half time score of 24–0.

Conditions in the second half worsened considerably with driving rain and a considerable drop in temperature to make things really miserable, but the team dug in and only shipped one try to make a final score of 24 –5 against a very well drilled and determined Rumney outfit.

Thanks to Rumney RFC for their hospitality and for allowing the boys to drag so much mud into their clubhouse!

The next fixture is a Blues Cup match against Llandaff North to be played in early January.

Team: George Thomas, Tom Evans, Jac Davies, Fraser McGhan, Jack Anderson, Joe Davies, Ed Couzens, Luke John, Ben Jones, Ellis Poulden, Tom Lucas, Matt Harper, Ashford Thomas, Hywel Williams, Rian Thomas, Nathan Robson, Eugene Richards, Gabe Newham, Josh Brace, Pete Anderson.

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COWBRIDGE MINI AND JUNIOR RUGBY ROUND-UP LATEST

MINI and junior rugby and football has been thriving in Cowbridge recently, with all age groups turning out, come rain or shine, to hone their skills against other local clubs.

It's a great opportunity to spot a few stars of the future, and names such as Lloyd Williams, Tom Prydie, Matthew Morgan, and (a little earlier) Lee Byrne all attracted attention in various editions of The GEM as they worked their way through the age groups.

For reports on Cowbridge junior rugby, see this page, and also pages 8 and 28.

Defence wins the day for the Cowbridge rugby under-11s

Cowbridge U11s 14 – Bridgend Athletic U11s 0

IN difficult conditions Cowbridge under 11s produced another excellent performance to beat local rivals Bridgend Athletic.

With a number of key personnel missing, Cowbridge produced some excellent phases of complete rugby, while at times the team's defence was outstanding.

Both teams were playing enterprising rugby, but it was Cowbridge who had the upper hand at the breakdown and managed to maintain possession of the ball after phase after phase of good rugby.

The boys were all doing their jobs, the forwards were producing the ball and the backs were making ground.

With 15 minutes gone, the Cowbridge team finally crossed the line thanks to a fantastic team try.

The boys moved the ball from their own 22, and went through nine phases of play before Barny Langton-Cryer found himself in some space and with a five man overlap; the Bridgend defence just could not keep Cowbridge out from scoring the game's first try.

This was Barny's 25th try of the season, a fantastic achievement.

Half time 7 – 0.

The second half followed the same pattern as the first with both teams having their chances to score.

The decisive score of the game came half way through the second half when the Cowbridge team put together the best phase of play of the game.

From a scrum deep inside their own half, Ioan Williams fed Evan Thomas who with a great pass off his right put Ed Lewis clear.

The Bridgend defence managed to bring Ed down just outside their 22, but with Ben Jones and Jack Dixon clearing the Bridgend defence away, Ioan once again fed Evan who this time fed the backs.

With great handling skills given the the conditions, they got Sam Green away to score his first try of the season. Ioan converted.

The Bridgend team did not let their heads drop and competed until the very end, but it was the Cowbridge defence that held strong and won the game.

Well done boys, a hard fought victory against a good Bridgend team. Full time Cowbridge 14 – Bridgend Athletic 0.

Try scorers : Barny Langton-Cryer, Sam Green, 2 conversions from Ioan Williams.

GJ

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